

NICOLAS-JAY ESTATE 2019 'L'ENSEMBLE' PINOT NOIR, WILLAMETTE VALLEY

The Wine

Since releasing our first wine in 2014, we have learned considerably more about the vineyards we harvest year after year. As those sites have matured, we have also come to know them more intimately, gaining a greater understanding of their identity and characteristics from vineyard, to block and down to the row.

L'Ensemble encapsulates a strict temperament in channeling the raw beauty, tension and persistence from these top vineyard blocks and our most expressive barrels with vintage quality acting as our guide to levels of production.

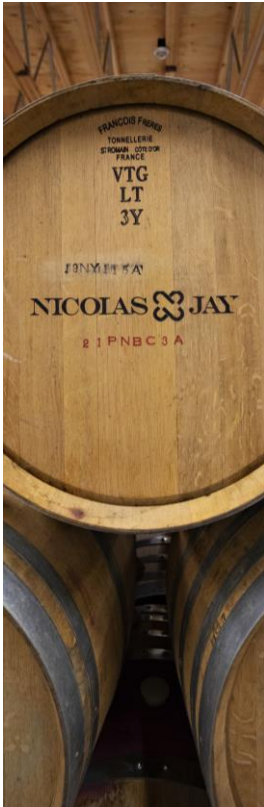
Jean-Nicolas Méo is a winemaker on a path of constant reflection, a devotion to learn and always at battle to improve with every vintage

Harvest

2019 began with a cold late winter that warmed quickly into a warmer than average spring. The defining feature of the growing season, however, was not in the timing of rainfall, but the amount. 2019 gave us record rainfall in late June and July, causing a delay in ripening and an abundance of growth in the vineyards. The low temperatures were normal to above average but without the usual heat spikes and intensity of the usual record Oregon summer heat waves. A beautiful dry August pushed the grapes toward maturity while maintaining balance and acidity through ripening. Early rains in September slowed things down, finally abating and finishing the growing season with a long, cool and dry Fall. The resulting wines have elegance, finesse and balance in what is one of the first cool Oregon vintages we've seen at the domaine. The aromatics and bright nature of these wines make them compelling to drink now and also speak to their aging potential as they open up and develop in bottle. We bottled this vintage a few months earlier than usual to preserve the beautiful elegance of the vintage.

Winemakers Tasting Notes

Although just our second interpretation of this cuvee, we have been envisioning this wine's construction since our very first vintage. This really is the collection of the best blocks and barrels of everything we farm. The 2019 L'Ensemble showcases Christmas spice, currants, blueberries and sweet forest floor notes. The front end brings strawberries, then chalky granite complexities, and subsequently shifts back to a fresh cranberry and hood river cherry. A framing of gentle vanilla weight from extra aging in French oak completes the palate. The fruit is cascading in effect, it forms in waves, with precise integration and symmetry that supports the wine's finesse and power



Harvested: Sept 14-26 **Harvest Brix:** 21-22.5 **Alcohol:** 13.5% **TA:** 5.1g/L, **pH:** 3.61
Winemaking: Native yeast, unfiltered, unfiltered, vegan **Cooperage:** 20% New French Oak, 13 months **Date Bottled:** February 5, 2021 **Production:** 55 barrels

Sourcing

Vineyard	AVA	Vine Age	Contribution	Farming	% Share
Bishop Creek	Yamhill-Carlton	33 years	"Power, granite, blue fruits"	Organic	35%
Nysa	Dundee Hills	31 years	"Elegance, red fruits, spice"	Organic	20%
Knights Gambit	Dundee Hills	30 years	"Raspberry, bright acidity, linear"	Organic	10%
Momtazi	McMinnville	22 years	"Wild blackberry, sweet citrus"	Bio-Dynamic	10%
La Colina	Dundee Hills	22 years	"Pomegranate, clove, black tea"	LIVE	10%
Hopewell	Eola-Amity	15 years	"Blue fruit, floral, wet stone"	Organic	5%
Temperance Hill	Eola-Amity	40 years	"White pepper, stone, hibiscus"	Organic	5%
Hyland	McMinnville	46 years	"Ethereal, floral, red fruits"	Bio-dynamic	5%

96 Points



Beautifully floral aromatics with sweet red cherries: so inviting. The palate is supple and elegant with fresh red cherries and plums. Very fresh and delicious with such purity and real elegance. I love the texture to this wine which is just so fine. Real elegance.

95 Points



Nicolas-Jay L'Ensemble Pinot Noir is "the collection of the best blocks and barrels of everything they farm." The 2019 vintage is a synergy of excellence. Enjoy its aromas and flavors of dried leaves, wild strawberries, and other alluring berries, and shading of oak

93 Points



Aromas of strawberries, spices and flowers follow through to a medium body with a firm and slightly chewy mouth-feel and a delicious finish. Give it time to come together and open. Unfiltered and unfiltered. Drink after 2025.

93 Points



Aged in 35% in new French oak barrels, the L'ensemble is a blend coming from the best of the best of exclusive barrels from each vineyard. Starting off a tad reductive (which I love) on the nose, it quickly exposes aromas of wild blueberry, mountain huckleberry, pencil shavings, milk chocolate, spiced candied blood orange peel, and dried rose petal. It's complex and interesting. The palate moves to secondary characteristics of vanilla bean, black tea, and wet earth. Crunchy tannins and high acidity complete the wine. 1329 cases produced \$65 93 Points 2022-2032

