



Decanter

Chardonnay Day: Oregon's Chardonnay – a product of global influences



Shana Clarke
May 25, 2023

Pinot Noir has been Oregon's calling card for decades, but in recent years, Chardonnay is proving to be an ideal counterpart to the red grape. Armed with ongoing research regarding clones and terroir, Chardonnay is flourishing.

One of the driving factors of success for Oregon **Chardonnay** is winemakers' global training and experiences. They bring techniques back to Oregon's terroir and explain how the state fits into the mosaic of international Chardonnays. Annual events, such as the Oregon Chardonnay Celebration, have evolved from a trade-focused technical tasting to a highly anticipated consumer-facing weekend, demonstrating the surging popularity of Chardonnay in the Pacific Northwest.

The link between France and Oregon has always been solid and new projects strengthen the bond. Houses such as **Maison Louis Jadot** (Résonance), **Méo-Camuzet** (Nicolas-Jay), and **The Bollinger Family** (Ponzi Vineyards) have invested in the Oregon wine industry in recent years. In a reversal move, Americans are forging a footprint in French vineyards. Domaine Serene, for example, holds the distinction of not only crafting wines in the Willamette Valley, but it is one of the few American wineries also to own an estate in **Burgundy** (Château de la Créé). With these investments comes new and evolving knowledge for Oregon.