

NICOLAS-JAY ESTATE 2021 L'ENSEMBLE PINOT NOIR, WILLAMETTE VALLEY

The Winery

Nicolas-Jay Estate is the story of a three-decade friendship between Burgundian winemaker Jean-Nicolas Méo and music entrepreneur Jay Boberg. Jean-Nicolas was the architect and innovator behind the rise of *Domaine Méo-Camuzet* as one of the most sought-after and collectible producers in the last 30 years. Wines of exquisite texture, persistence and density that also precisely represent the landscape and terroir in which they would come from. With this natural understanding of viticulture and wine, combined with the mastery of prestigious terroirs left by his family and developed by himself, Méo-Camuzet rests amongst an elite few in benchmark level wines and the lofty status the *Domaine* enjoys in Burgundy today. Jay Boberg would bring more than his share of innovation and inspiration to the table as the two set forth in the early 2010's on this quest to produce top-quality Willamette Valley wine together. Jay's visionary approach for his own craft, signing and producing iconic bands, would bring an eye and approach to the partnership unlike few other duos in the wine industry. The Co-founder of the seminal indy label *IRS Records* in the early 1980's to President of *MCA/Universal records*, would find him fostering and launching bands such as *R.E.M.*, *The Go-Go's*, *Blink-182*, *Mary J. Blige*, *Sublime*, *The Roots* and *B.B. King*.



The Wine

The core objective to venture into the Willamette Valley would be two-fold. The pursuance of the best possible vineyards, first. Then understanding if a cuvée made outside the constraints of the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée could deliver sense of place and enchanting textures as prolifically as the great climats of the Côte d'Or. It would take the highest of expectations across dozens of vineyards for half a decade. Micro-fermenting newly discovered blocks in search of hidden subtleties and hundreds of hours of relentless determination, year after year, until a path could emerge. A passageway to a special wine, a wine that symbolizes a refined expertise that can only come from 35 vintages on top of the world's most hallowed Pinot Noir ground.

Together, The Whole, The Entire « The L'Ensemble »

Harvest

The beautiful 2021 vintage began with a warm dry winter followed by a wet and cool late Spring. Grape ripening slowed down and the very healthy and abundant fruit began showing signs of ripeness in early September. Harvest was beautiful and dry with only one small rain event toward the end, ideal for a successful vintage. The fruit was pristine and yields were abundant, leading to moderate alcohol levels and bright acidity.

Vineyard	AVA	Vine Age	Contribution	Farming
Bishop Creek	Yamhill-Carlton	35 years	"Power, granite, blue fruits"	Organic
Terry	Yamhill-Carlton	18 years	"Blackberry liqueur, earth"	LIVE
Nysa	Dundee Hills	31 years	"Elegance, red fruits, spice"	Organic
Knights Gambit	Dundee Hills	30 years	"Raspberry, bright acidity, linear"	Organic
La Colina	Dundee Hills	22 years	"Pomegranate, clove, black tea"	LIVE
Hopewell	Eola-Amity	15 years	"Blue fruit, floral, wet stone"	Organic
Temperance Hill	Eola-Amity	40 years	"White pepper, stone, hibiscus"	Organic
Momtazi	McMinnville	22 years	"Wild blackberry, sweet citrus"	Bio-Dynamic
Hyland	McMinnville	46 years	"Ethereal, floral, red fruits"	Bio-dynamic
Cherry Grove	Tualatin Hills	18 years	"Rhubarb spice, herbs, dried plum"	LIVE

Harvested: Sept 8-26
Harvest Brix: 22.5
Alcohol: 13.0%
TA: 5.5g/L, **pH:** 3.59
Winemaking: Spontaneous native yeast
Fining / Filtration: None
Cooperage: 35% new French oak, 16 mo.
Date Bottled: April 27, 2023
Production: 82 barrels

96 Points

A stunning example of a well-crafted Pinot Noir from Oregon, Perfect levels of acidity, spice, and fruit complete this decadent and phenomenal wine. Highly recommended.

95 Points

Revealing aromas of fresh pine, ripe cherry liqueur, and toasted spice. It delivers elegant freshness and wonderful purity.

94 Points (Insider Weekly)

Seduction meets elegant structure in the Pinot, which offers graceful raspberry and cherry flavors accented by rose petal and savory spice notes before finishing with polished tannins. Drink now through 2032.

94 Points

It takes plenty of air for its initial Jintiness to give way to cranberries, raspberries, rose petals, blood orange and tea leaves. The palate features layered, complex flavors. It's structured by velvety tannins, and its mouthwatering acidity calls you back to the glass.

94 Points

The blend of top barrels. Sleek, understated, lively and fresh. Silky tannins add to the alluring tension. Best from 2028.

Wine Spectator
WINE REPORT

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