

NICOLAS-JAY ESTATE 2021 OWN-ROOTED 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 Bishop Creek Vineyard (estate) Yamhill-Carlton
Planted 1988

The Wine

Our 'Own-Rooted' Pinot Noir showcases several old-vine sites in the Willamette Valley, each at least 30 years old, and planted at a time when rootstock was relatively rare in Oregon viticulture. Our own Bishop Creek Vineyard supplies a portion of the blend, showing off its characteristic black fruit and granite tannin structure. Hyland Vineyard, the oldest in the McMinnville AVA, sits atop a hillside looking over the Van Duzer Corridor, and its 46-year-old vines supply earth-driven tension in this wine. 1989-planted Pommard clones from the Nysa Vineyard completes this wine, supplying ethereal elements, red fruits and dusty spice.

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
Nysa	Dundee Hills	31 years	"Elegance, red fruits, spice"	Organic
Hyland	McMinnville	46 years	"Ethereal, floral, red fruits"	Bio-dynamic

97 Points

It excites in every way possible, from the wonderful balance between fruit, earth, tannins, and acidity that flows over the tongue in unison to the lovely earth and spice notes of pine forest and grated clove. Highly recommended and editor's choice.

96 Points

The medium ruby 2021 Own-Rooted is gorgeous, with a floral, expressive perfume of herbes de Provence, cardamon, wild raspberry, and mossy earth. Medium-bodied, with fine, graceful tannins, its floral perfume floats across the palate with a highly refined feel and a mouthwatering mineral accent on the finish. It is hard to resist now but certainly has the structure to gain intensity over the coming 10-15 years.

TOP 10 of 2023

if you want to taste the indulgent cherry fruit, silky tannins and bewitchingly complex character of this wine, better act fast.

95 Points

Editors' Choice.

95 Points

It's bursting with perfume! Raspberry, strawberry and rhubarb are accented by tones of Cara Cara orange, mixed tea leaves, forest floor and amaro; it's notably detailed and pure and gains in intensity and expression as it airs in the glass. The medium-bodied palate features surprisingly concentrated layers of red fruit, flowers and spice. It's structured by velvety tannins and a bright spine of acidity, and it has a layered, detailed finish. How pretty!

94 Points

A blend from three different vineyards planted on their own rootstocks, Hyland in McMinnville, the estate Bishop Creek site in the Yamhill Carlton and Nysa Vineyard in the Dundee Hills. This concentrated effort shows sweet blue and black fruit aromatics with ample floral notes.



Farming: Organic, Bio-dynamic
Harvested: Sept 8-26
Harvest Brix: 22.5
Alcohol: 13.0%
TA: 5.3g/L, **pH:** 3.54
Winemaking: Spontaneous native yeast
Fining / Filtration: None
Cooperage: 50% new French oak, 16 mo.
Date Bottled: April 27, 2023
Production: 305 cases

WINE REPORT

JEB DUNNUCK

Forbes

Wine & Spirits

ROBERT PARKER
WINE ADVOCATE

Decanter