

2023

BISHOP CREEK VINEYARD PINOT NOIR  
YAMHILL-CARLTON • WILLAMETTE VALLEY



### THE WINE

This vineyard was first planted to ungrafted rootstock in 1988 on tight 5x5 rows of three Pinot Noir clones (Pommard, Wädenswil, 777) in north-south facing blocks. Dramatic elevation changes, rugged growing conditions and an extremely low water table has pushed root systems deep (30-40') into the porous and nutritionally deficient marine sedimentary soils of the Eocene era and alluvial sands of the Missoula floods. These unusually challenging conditions, a mediterranean climate, broad diurnal temperature changes and high degree days (2,400) generates 1-2 tons per acre of small, thick-skinned berries that feature profound texture and immense structure.

### TASTING NOTES

Another powerful expression of what the Yamhill-Carlton district is capable of achieving. Intense mountain blackberry compote aromas and crushed granite immediately leap from the glass. Shaved pencil lead and a brambly sweet leather character begin to emerge around a core of roasted plum and herbs. Aggressive and masculine in the outset on the palate, the wine then gently softens for a moment only to constrict with an intensive youthfulness. Candied fennel and upright blue fruits begin to take over as the wine broadens and gains momentum. Noticeable different than the 2022 vintage, as this wine shows more resistance all the way through the finish. Indicative of the symmetry of the great 2023 vintage, the tightly-wound granular tannins form a palisade around a powerful core of brooding, peak level Pinot Noir flavor. Dusty river rocks and roasted oak take hold toward the end only to press the finish even further. A fantastic sensory experience once again, and a wine that will need your patience in order to be fully understood.

### VINTAGE NOTES

The 2023 growing season was marked by exceptional growing conditions especially when compared to the previous few vintages. An ample amount of winter precipitation provided the vines with the energy they would require for the growing season. Spring was cold and wet and pushed back bud break by a week from the more traditional time of mid-April. Warm summer temperatures moved the growing season along giving health and abundance to the vines. Small rain events right before harvest time helped to push ripeness across the finish line as well and condensing the picking period. The Pinot noirs of 2023 show a beautiful fruit forward quality. Structured and filling tannin round out the mid-palate with a finish driven by the presence of natural acids.

**Harvested:** September 17-22

**Harvest Brix:** 22.7

**CÉPAGE:** 100% Pinot Noir

**CULTIVATION:** Organic

**SOIL:** Marine sedimentary (Willakenzie series)

**VINE AGE:** Up to 37 years

**Vendange:** Hand-picked, 1/8 ton cherry bins, field and winery sorting

**VINIFICATION:** 100% destemmed, spontaneous native yeast, unfined, unfiltered

**ÉLEVAGE:** 15 MONTHS, 50% new French oak

**TA:** 5.92 G/L

**P H:** 3.54

**DATE BOTTLED:** May 7, 2025

**CASES PRODUCED:** 451

