

2023

L'ENSEMBLE PINOT NOIR

WILLAMETTE VALLEY



THE WINE

Since our first vintage, 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.

TASTING NOTES

A deep purple core with concentrated edges shows a distinct viscosity as the wine swirls slowly around the glass. It casually bursts with a potpourri of exotic fruits and alive energy. There's sweet bark and loamy earth aromas reminiscent of forest floor and fresh rain, then a prickly pomegranate liqueur begins to take shape. This is quickly overtaken by a freshly cut straw essence and new French oak staves that are followed by a dash of naturally made cherry cola. Apple blossoms emerge, then fresh herbs arise that give way to a delicate raspberry scent that's thrilling and exotic. So effusive, yet showing casual restraint as the aromas rise from the glass. The texture of this wine is spectacular, it immediately reveals that signature Jean-Nicolas Méo craftsmanship as the fabric of the wine bends and curves with tension and elasticity but never goes to far. Sweet hood river cherries take center position as the tangerine and blue fruit compote flavors take on a micro granular tannin design across your palate. As the wine begins to loosens and bend there's a linseed and cassis nuance as it expands and shows off its immense structure while picking up its pace and momentum. It's dynamic, with a refreshing wetness but maintains a frame of intensity and power that all feels so organic, raw and natural. A long, complicated finish carries and pushes but still finds a way to be charming and graceful all at once.

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 11-21

Harvest Brix: 22.6-23.7

CÉPAGE: 100% Pinot Noir

CULTIVATION: Organic, bio-dynamic, LIVE

AVA: Yamhill-Carlton, Dundee Hills, Eola-Amity, McMinnville, Tualatin Hills

VINE AGE: Up to 48 years

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

VINIFICATION: 100% destemmed, spontaneous native yeast, unfinned, unfiltered

ÉLEVAGE: 14 MONTHS, 30% new French oak

TA: 5.91 G/L

P H: 3.54

DATE BOTTLED: May 8, 2025

CASES PRODUCED: 1,817

