

# CHEHALEM

## CHEHALEM RIDGECREST PINOT NOIR 2013

Appellation: Ribbon Ridge, Willamette Valley; Oregon; USA

**Winemaker:** Harry  
Peterson-Nedry  
**Closure:** Screwcap  
**Alcohol:** 12.8%  
**Certified Sustainably Grown**



Chehalem, © Shawn Linehan

### The Vineyard

Our oldest estate vineyard block, Ridgecrest is a 55-acre vineyard on a 176-acre property. Beginning in 1980, this site pioneered grapegrowing on Ribbon Ridge, a small ridge on the western end of the Chehalem Range. Soils are Willakenzie, a transition soil series exhibiting characteristics of both volcanic and sedimentary underlying structures, marine sediment being predominant. Supple black cherry and blackberry fruits are characteristic of Ridgecrest Vineyards and the Willakenzie soil series. Excellent acidity and a finesseful texture and finish are hallmarks of the vineyard site, being relatively high in elevation, mature in vine age, and deeply rooted. Very ageable wines.

### Tasting Notes

Light to moderate colour, this Pinot Noir may fool you into thinking it's light in flavor and texture, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Classic Ridgecrest characteristics with baking spice, bramble, cherry and black currant, cocoa powder and earth. Lofty exotic aromas are complimented by a palate that is perfectly weighty, with subtle nappy tannins and a core of bright fruit. Five-spice and cherry pie showcase the flavor profile, with accents of iron, redwood, cardamom and plum. Truly elegant and juicy, an outstanding representation of the oldest vines on Ribbon Ridge.

### Reviews

Bright and lively, polished in texture and light-footed, with currant and plum flavors on a sleek frame, lingering effortlessly. Drink now through 2023.

**92 points, Wine Spectator, Feb 29, 2016**

### The Wine

This wine is the oldest of the four vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs we produce. Chehalem has made a Ridgecrest Vineyards Pinot Noir since its first release in 1990, with selected barrels going to an upper-end elegant Reserve from Ridgecrest since 1994, and any not measuring up to this standard being designated 3 Vineyard. It is characteristically brawny, briary, dusty black-fruited, and occasionally currant or cassis, all hallmarks of Ribbon Ridge wines. Deep, sweet fruit has been balanced with fine tannin structure in recent years, which, with good acidic structure, gives good ageability.

### Vintage

2013 is a Tale of Two Harvests—one very early and one normal, with rain in-between. They started as one very early harvest thanks to a very consistent, warm growing season, the warmest on record up to final ripening mid-September. An unanticipated 30-year rain event of 5 inches then appeared the last days of September, made of remnants from a typhoon that had hit Japan. Cool weather from then on slowed ripening and turned harvest into two discrete picks, earlier and later picks apart by up to three weeks showing very good quality, the coolness and longer hang-time a big benefit. Croploads were moderate-to high, wines early-on similar in nature to 1996, with richness, and deep spice.

