



CRISTOM EILEEN PINOT NOIR 2014

Appellation: Eola-Amity Hills; Willamette Valley; Oregon; USA

Winemaker: Steve Doerner
Closure: Cork
Alcohol: 13.5%
Organically Farmed



Vineyard

The 15-acre Eileen Vineyard is a group of vineyard plots named for Cristom owner Paul Gerrie's wife. Farmed organically, it is the youngest of the estate pinot noir vineyards, planting began in 1997, at the high density of 2300 vines per acre. It extends to the top of the winery's property where cooler conditions and the chance to soak up the last sun of the day encourage the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. Sweetly spiced, with forward-focused fruit and gentle tannins that coat the mouth, Eileen offers immediate drinking pleasure, with an even and voluptuous quality that gives her wide appeal. In 2006 4 and a half acres of new vines (Wädenswil clones) were added to the Eileen Vineyard, producing fruit that promises the best of Eileen is yet to come.

Tasting Notes

The wine has an enticing aroma of a complex blend of spices including cinnamon, clove, anise seed, ginger root, nutmeg and turmeric reminiscent of South Asian cuisine. On the palate, it exudes bright red fruits, has great balance and a good weight to the mid-palate with soft, tannins that in short time will integrate beautifully. This wine has tremendous structure and the distinct ability to age gracefully over a period of 10 – 12 years or more.

Reviews:

Subtle aromas of cedar, dark berries, tea and orange peel follow through to a full to medium body, compacted fruit and a fine tannin backbone. Excellent acidity as well. Drink in 2019. - 94 points JamesSuckling.com - Nov. 2016

Vintage

The 2014 vintage will be remembered as one of the great vintages in Willamette Valley winegrowing history. A warm, but nearly ideal growing season delivered the rare combination of abundant quantity and exceptional quality fruit that developed into aromatic wines of balance, depth and concentration. The season got off to a warm and dry start with the earliest budbreak and bloom. Growing conditions were mostly dry and warmer than normal throughout the spring and the vineyards produced heavy clusters and large berries. The warm weather conditions continued throughout the summer leading to record high temperatures and the earliest start date to harvest in over two decades. The 2014 vintage broke the previous record for heat accumulation during the growing season, set in 1992.

