



~Intense, low yield Pinot Noir~

~Minimally handled using gravity~

~Estate fruit, from one of Oregon's
finest vineyards~

Next Shipment-March

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YAMHILL, OR, December 1st, 2011

In our last newsletter I told you I couldn't call the vintage until the end of October. Well I actually had to wait until November 1st. It was the latest harvest ever at Lenné. We finally picked the majority of the vineyard on November 1st, almost a full month after our normal picking time. Global warming?

Well I hope we never see another vintage like it but somehow we managed to dodge a bullet. I think we actually pulled it off though I can't comment on the overall quality of the vintage until the wine finishes its secondary fermentation called malo-lactic fermentation. After the must undergoes its primary fermentation, we inoculate the wine with a bacteria which converts the hard, malic acid to a softer lactic acid. It is hard to evaluate the wines until that process is finished. But the color looks very good and I will look forward to start tasting through the wines in a couple of weeks to see how the aromatics came out. Overall, I am optimistic about the vintage.

But, it could have been a total disaster. Never before have we lived so close to the edge. Early rains would have doomed the vintage. We needed every ounce of dry weather this year and fortunately we got it. My early guess is that we will make very pretty wines that will be delicate with good fruit and will be more similar to the 2010 vintage than to the 2009 vintage. I will have a very good sense of the vintage in a few weeks.

One thing I can tell you for certain, is that the 2010 vintage was a great success at Lenné. Some of you may have tasted the Kill Hill at our pre-thanksgiving tasting. I think the 2010 vintage will go down as the greatest vintage of the decade for Lenné along with the 2008's. The 2010 Pinot Noirs are different than the 08 wines, more accessible early on and show classic Pinot Noir fruit. I think the 08's ultimately have more depth than the 2010 wines, but you will have to wait for the 08's to evolve. I have held back a fair amount of the 2008 Lenné Estate Pinot Noir. We will be pouring the wine until spring time and then hold the remaining wine to be released in a year or two....with a significant price increase. I believe they will evolve to be epic wines.

But many of you will love the 2010 vintage, as do I. The charm of the 2010 vintage is undeniable and I anticipate they will age beautifully in the 5-8 year range. The bad news is that the LeNez and Lenné Estate Pinot Noirs have half of the production we had in the 2009 vintage. Not only did we have a poor fruit set in 2010, but we had to fight birds and the birds won in parts of the vineyard. Remarkably, bird pressure was low in spite of picking so late this year.

I hope you enjoy this first taste of the 2010 vintage!