



LENNÉ
Oregon Pinot Noir

Handcrafted

Single Site

Pinot Noir

Yamhill, March 15th, 2020

As I write this the world is dealing with the Corona virus and life reminds us that nothing is more important than our health. I hope this shipment finds you healthy and safe. I don't know what the immediate future will bring but as many things in life, this too shall pass and I hope the wine in this shipment will offer a little reprieve.

We have three vintages represented in this shipment, 2016, 2017 and 2018. The 2017 vintage was another remarkable vintage with one of the warmest Augusts on record. Mid-way through the summer I thought we were in danger of producing ripe, high alcohol wines, fortunately we had the largest fruit set in our brief history which slowed down ripening and left us with beautifully balanced wines all under 14% alcohol. The wines are bright and fruit forward but with plenty of structure (tannin and acidity) to age. I would recommend decanting them if you drink them now and you don't need anything fancy to do that; just pour them into a pitcher then back into the bottle. It will help soften them for immediate drinking but it is no substitute for bottle age. The 2017 wines will be gorgeous with bottle age, they will take on weight, new aromatics and eventually a beautiful velvet-like richness that only comes with aging.

I have also included one more 2016 wine in this vintage which is drinking great, even now, but is also destined for stardom with cellaring; the 2016 Lenné Estate Pinot Noir. This was an early vintage but not as hot as the 2017 vintage and many vintners consider it to be among the top vintages in the last decade. I feel it is one of the top vintages I have ever dealt with. The wines all have concentration without being heavy or high in alcohol. That doesn't happen often and we have to go back to the 2008 vintage to find similar wines. We only have three wines left from the 2016 vintage and I find these wines drinkable now but they will age into beauties.

Finally I have included the first two single clones from the 2018 vintage; the Jill's 115 and Eleanor's 114 Pinot Noirs. Like the 2017 vintage, this was a warm vintage but the wines are nothing alike. We had a smaller fruit set with smaller berries. The good news is that the wines are opulent and those of you who remember the 2006 will be big fans of these. The wines are deep and dark with loads of black fruit. We always have mocha aromatic in all of our wines which is an aromatic that comes from the soil. In the 2018 wines this has evolved into more of a dark chocolate aroma. They are big, rich wines with plenty of fine grained tannins in them. They will certainly evolve over the next decade but they will be hard to resist now.

I hope you enjoy the wines and all of our lives get back to normal as soon as possible.

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But as always I prefer you email me directly if you have any questions or concerns at steve@lenneestate.com

