



Handcrafted

Single Site

Pinot Noir

Yamhill, March 15th, 2021

What a year it has been. Not only did we have to live through the pandemic but in September Oregon was ravaged by wild fires creating smoke taint in vineyards throughout the Northern Willamette Valley. If that wasn't enough, we experienced the poorest fruit set since our inception. Normally we harvest 36 to 40 tons of fruit but had only 16 in 2020. We know our experience in 2020 was not unique. We certainly anticipate a wine shortage in the next year here at Lenné and expect the same for the majority of producers throughout the Willamette Valley. We hope for a better year ahead but for now deal with what we have.

The good news is we still have small inventories of recent vintages and in this shipment we have four vintages represented: 2016, 2017, 2018 and our newest vintage, 2019. The 2016 was an early vintage but not as hot as the 2017 vintage. Many vintners consider it to be among the top vintages in the last decade and I, too, feel it is one of the top vintages I have ever dealt with. The wines all have concentration without being overly heavy or high in alcohol and the Lenné Estate in this shipment is starting to show the first signs of complexity from bottle age.

The wines from the 2019 vintage are similar to the 2016 wines. They are angular now so I suggest laying them down for at least a year but they have all the makings of being great. Like the 2016 wines, they have all the flavor without high alcohols and perfect tannin and acidity amounts to age them into beautiful wines. The longer I do this the more I love these kinds of vintages. I would suggest decanting these wines if you are drinking them young.

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 2017 LeNez included in this shipment is starting to lose some of the hard edges it had a year ago and drinking nicely.

Finally I have included another single clone from the 2018 vintage, the Sad Jack 777 Pinot Noir. Like the 2017 vintage, this was a warm vintage but the wines are nothing alike. We had a smaller fruit set with smaller berries in 2018 and the wines have a riper profile. This wine was made in a slightly different style than our typical Pinots. We tried using indigenous yeasts and a natural secondary fermentation. Many high end Pinots are made this way in the Willamette Valley now. We think we prefer our typical style but there is a different kind of complexity associated with this wine and we hope you enjoy it.

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

