

Beaux Frères

THE UNCOMPROMISED ESSENCE
of

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MOTHER NATURE

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"Still crazy after all these years..." Paul Simon

A reflection from Robert M. Parker Jr. in celebration of Beaux Frères' 25th year
with notes from Michael G. Etzel and Robert Roy:

LOOKING BACK ACROSS THE YEARS, THERE IS MUCH TO SAVOR. In 1986, my brother-in-law, Michael Etzel, found a run-down home and pig farm on 88 acres. The steep south/southeast exposure, sedimentary soils, moderate elevation, and surrounding lush Oregon forest had the look of "the right stuff."

From Michael Etzel (M.E.) - "In my wildest optimism, I never imagined that Oregon — or Beaux Frères for that matter — would be where we are today. Both now share the world wine stage, producing Pinot Noirs destined for the most prized collectors' cellars."

A couple years later, against all my logic and instincts and through Michael's strength of will and courage, we plunged ahead with planting a 5-acre vineyard. The first crop was purchased by iconic pioneers of the Willamette Valley wine industry, Dick Ponzi and Ken Wright. Our original plan was to grow and sell grapes, but Michael made a few barrels in 1990 that were so good, we decided to convert the pig barn into a working winery. We brought on a third partner, Robert Roy from Quebec. A successful entrepreneur in the construction business, his penchant for gourmet dinners and fine wines made him an ideal addition and he became our financial guru.

From Robert Roy: "My interest in wine began during travels throughout France. I later met Robert Parker at a wine seminar and, after a devoted career in engineering, the opportunity to produce some of Oregon's best Pinot Noir motivated me to take on a new challenge. I joined as a partner with Michael and Robert in 1991, and the dream has come alive through a shared vision to invest in the quality of our wine. Beaux Frères constitutes the sum of our talents and achievements."

Our first "real" vintage was 1992, a Pinot Noir that 24 years later is still a sumptuous, complex wine. We slowly expanded the Beaux Frères Vineyard to 25 acres, and with the purchase of a nearby hillside that is now our revered Upper Terrace, added another 10 acres of estate fruit. Never did I think we could realize the dream of making world-class Pinot Noirs, and long-lived ones. But Michael, a meticulous farmer, along with his late wife Jackie and their three sons, turned a rustic pig barn and wild hillside into an impeccable site farmed biodynamically to create wines of authenticity and character.

M.E. - "Our wines have proven to age gracefully into beautiful gems; the '94 is yet to reach its pinnacle. Every year, we come closer to understanding our cherished vineyard and our role in revealing its potential. After planting and working with the same vineyard for so many years, my intimacy with each distinct block of the site directs decisions in the winery. New oak barrels or old, whole cluster or de-stemmed fruit, long or short fermentation, these are among countless details of winemaking that have taken decades to learn."

Those early vintages, made with a minimum of experience, attested not only to the great potential of Oregon's Willamette Valley, but also demonstrated a Midas touch with the often-fickle Pinot Noir grape. Our vineyard is now a showcase for sustainable agriculture, and the Beaux Frères story a beacon for all dreamers. This incredible journey has been underway for a quarter century, with Michael as the architect of these world class wines, Robert Roy contributing his business acumen, and my providing some outside perspective, and hopefully some inspiration. With the Beaux Frères Vineyard's 25th year, we can take honest pride in creating some of the finest Pinot Noir in the world.

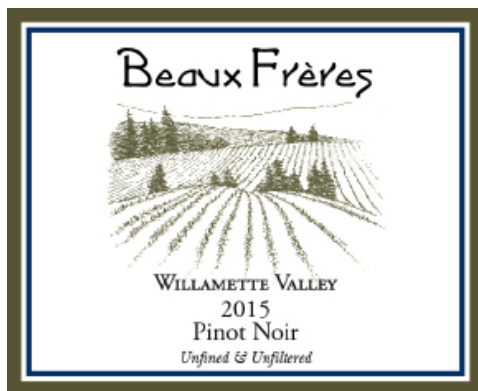
ROBERT M. PARKER, JR.

MICHAEL G. ETZEL

ROBERT ROY

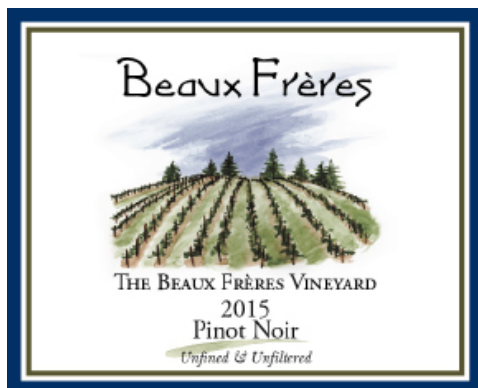
TASTING NOTES

WRITING TASTING NOTES IS A PERENNIAL REMINDER OF HOW WEIGHTY A TASK IT REALLY IS: TO SOMEHOW CAPTURE IN WORDS AN EXPERIENCE THAT IS NOT ONLY SENSORY, BUT ALSO EMOTIONAL, VISCERAL, AND DEEPLY INDIVIDUAL. Can we best succeed by blind tasting wines side-by-side at 9am, in universal glassware, on white paper mats, at perfect cellar temperature? We did try, and the following notes should give readers an understanding of what they might find in the wines, yes. We made special effort to honor the uniqueness of every person's palate; to avoid precision in favor of integrity. After all, one person's "cranberry" is another's "pomegranate." On the other hand, as we set our pens down we lamented the sterile setting and agreed to take the wines (and ourselves) out for dinner and give it another go. After all, it's the humanity of our efforts, coupled with the whimsy of working with Mother Nature as our muse, that makes Beaux Frères wine distinct. Our operation is low on technology, high on personality. Low on analytics, high on intuition. If we get around to compiling the wine-stained ramblings resulting from our dinner, a second release of this newsletter may be in order. Until then, dear readers...



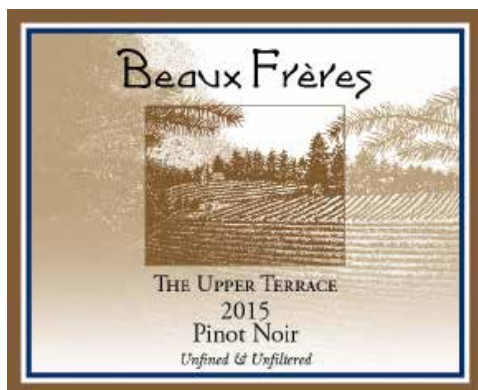
2015 BEAUX FRÈRES WILLAMETTE VALLEY PINOT NOIR

Beautiful, gem-toned clarity. Explosively aromatic, this wine begins with fresh, bright fruit-juiciness leading to a more savory palate. The balance is pitch perfect; enough zest to match the velvety tannins. In this stellar vintage, an ample dose of Estate fruit made its way into our Willamette Valley cuvée. Though this wine always shows early finesse, a bit of tension suggests it will age nicely for several years. The blend is 28% Zena Crown, 18% Gran Moraine, 15% Beaux Frères, 15% Hyland, 11% Sequitur, 8% Guadalupe, and 5% Upper Terrace.



2015 BEAUX FRÈRES BEAUX FRÈRES VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

A perfect ruby jewel in the glass. Twenty-five years later, our beloved original Estate has outdone itself. Silky-textured and vibrant with layers of tart red berries and mulling spice; then like a deep breath on a misty mountain morning eases seamlessly into fragrant damp earth. Captivating, intricate, and refined even in its youth, this wine's impressive age-worthiness remains strong. Expect increasing complexity and grace for another twenty years or more.



2015 BEAUX FRÈRES UPPER TERRACE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Deeper in hue and density of color, our wine from this vineyard's 14th harvest amounts to a fascinating adventure in bottle. From the initial bouquet — impressively vivid — its expansive complexity brings hints of dusty berry and wet slate. Moments later, it becomes even more lush. A subtle waft of incense emerges as the evolution continues. With rich, round tannins and a good deal of gusto, the wine promises decades of potential with proper cellaring.