

# Beaux Frères

THE UNCOMPROMISED ESSENCE

of  
MOTHER NATURE

VINTAGE 2016

VOL. XXIII



## The more things change, the more they stay the same.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE 23<sup>RD</sup> WRITTEN, and many of you have followed every vintage — thank you. For those joining us more recently, let me point out a few landmarks since we set our first vines into soil at Beaux Frères in 1988. We planted the site now called Upper Terrace in 2000 and began farming biodynamically at both Estate properties, avoiding conventional sprays in favor of gentle tonics like dandelion and stinging nettle tea.

We've expanded the winery (our dear old pig barn) more times than I can recall, and have begun to replace own-rooted vineyard blocks with vines on protected rootstock. At the helm of winemaking these days is the second generation, my middle son, Mikey Etzel, who grew up alongside our original vines.

This year, with the retirement of my brother-in-law, Robert Parker, and our business partner, Robert Roy, Beaux Frères began a new partnership with 8th generation, French family-owned Maisons & Domaines Henriot. This means we are now even more connected to the Old World winemaking traditions that have always inspired our work.

*"Beaux Frères is a perfect fit with the traditions and values of my family, built over many generations. In the warmth that we immediately felt with the Etzel family, I sensed a meeting of the minds and the flame of shared artistic passion and know-how."*

*Gilles de Larouzière, President of Maisons & Domaines Henriot*

The 2016 growing season provided all the necessary elements to produce a promising wine. Only time will determine greatness. After a sunny summer, we harvested our warmest site on August 25th, fruit sourced from Guadalupe Vineyard. On September 30th the last fruit came in from Hyland Vineyard, our coolest source. Our Estate vineyards, Beaux Frères and Upper Terrace, came in block by block between those dates. Harvesting grapes throughout a 30-day period provides a flow of work that is not overly demanding. The weather, for the most part, cooperated, making for another enjoyable vintage. I think you will be pleased with the result.

As always, thank you for your years of trust in us — a collection of talented people who take pride in their work.

Sincerely,

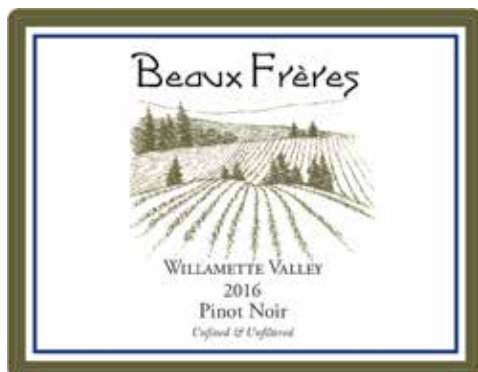
MICHAEL G. ETZEL (THE DAD)  
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT  
BEAUX FRÈRES

GILLES DE LAROUZIÈRE  
PRESIDENT  
MAISONS & DOMAINES HENRIOT

# ON WINEMAKING

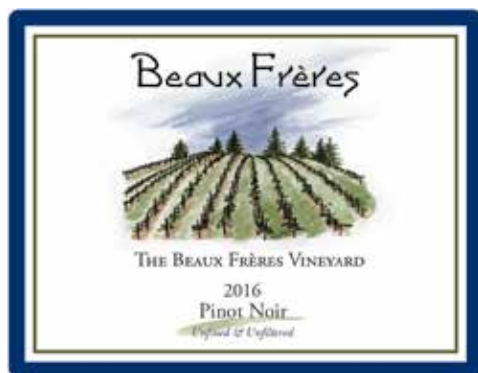
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR BELIEF THAT THE WINEMAKER'S HAND, LIKE AN ORCHESTRAL COMPOSER, IS NOT MEANT TO DOMINATE BUT TO GUIDE. In essence, both roles require a keen sense of balance and an almost spiritual connection to the elements at play. On the other hand, there is a need for disciplined restraint to let each note, each instrument, each otherwise fleeting tone have its moment of grandeur.

The 2016 wines are an opus of their own, and — although there's no sense trying to pinpoint variables in the haystack of natural, viticultural, and enological influences — some credit for the immense character of this vintage might go to the connection between our family and the farm we call Beaux Frères Vineyard. Our first vines were planted around Mikey's second birthday, and it has been a real thrill to witness his contribution now as an experienced winemaker working in his own backyard.



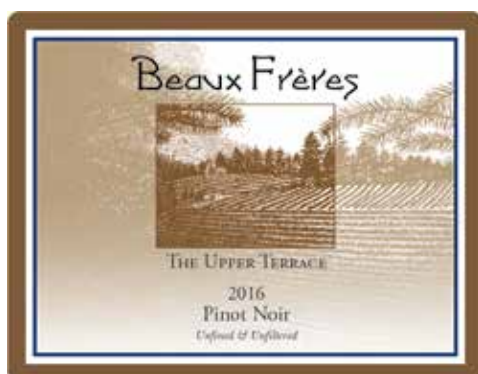
2016 BEAUX FRÈRES  
WILLAMETTE VALLEY PINOT NOIR

*A highly inviting wine with ripe, juicy red fruit, delicate cocoa and floral aromatics emerging readily. Each whirl of the glass reveals another stop on a sensuous tour of our diverse region; its lush and varied terrain, distinct microclimates, and infinite vine characteristics. There is a prismatic, symphonic quality to this wine that is amplified beyond any one facet. The blend is Gran Moraine 29%, Hyland 19%, Sequitur 18%, Dupee 12%, Jesse James 8%, Starling 6%, Zena Crown 4%, and Beaux Frères 4%.*



2016 BEAUX FRÈRES  
BEAUX FRÈRES VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

*Pure, classic Beaux Frères with everything in beautiful poise. Our first tasting revealed an enthralling wine, opening like floodgates toward the sublime — a freshly cedar-oiled grandfather clock, a favorite Musigny, blood-orange dark chocolate candies, or perhaps something unique and lovely from your own memory bank. The texture is refined, the tannins well integrated, and the entire wine deeply intricate and harmonious.*



2016 BEAUX FRÈRES  
UPPER TERRACE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

*This is a wine of impressive elegance and uncompromising intensity. To say it is balanced would not begin to describe the character of this vintage. It is playful, expansive, plush, and generously resonant in its youth. Already there are hints of forest moss and river rock that we expect to unfold into a full adventure throughout decades.*

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