



Beaux Frères



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"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." — Mike Etzel

Statistics

COUNTRY

United States

APPELLATION

Ribbon Ridge AVA, Willamette Valley, OR

FOUNDED

1986

ESTATE OWNERS

Henriot Champagne,
Mike Etzel
Robert Parker Jr.

WINEMAKER

Mike Etzel Jr.

CASE PRODUCTION

10,000

FARMING PRACTICES

Biodynamic

Varieties

Pinot Noir
Chardonnay

Website

www.beauxfreres.com

"It has always been our belief that the winemaker's hand, like an orchestral composer, is not meant to dominate, but to guide."

— Mike Etzel

Winery Profile

While on vacation in 1986, Michael Etzel came upon an 88-acre pig farm for sale located on Ribbon Ridge in the Northern Willamette Valley, Yamhill County, Oregon. After some deliberation, Michael purchased the farm with his brother-in-law (the French idiom is "beaux frères"), Robert Parker, Jr.

Michael uprooted his young family from Colorado and moved to the farm the following summer. He began his focused pursuit as a vineyard manager by planting only Pinot Noir and slowly transforming the old pig and dairy farm into his jewel. While planting his own vineyard, Michael worked four harvests at Ponzi Winery. In 1990, Michael harvested his first crop and sold the grapes, except enough to make one barrel, to winemakers Ken Wright and Dick Ponzi.

In 1991, a renovation of one of the barns led to the creation of Beaux Frères Winery. With each new vintage, Michael's efforts further unveil his pursuit of Pinot Noir that is the purest expression of the vineyard.

In 2017, the winery celebrated the release of its 25th vintage, the milestone also marked the beginning of a new partnership with eighth-generation French family-owned Maisons & Domaines Henriot. Michael's role in guiding vineyard, winery, and day-to-day operations continue, as will his partial ownership along with his brother-in-law, Robert Parker Jr. Michael's son, Mike D. Etzel, continues as winemaker.





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Critical Acclaim

Mike Etzel is one of Oregon's winemaking pioneers who helped put the region on the world wine map as the home of Pinot Noir in the New World. Beaux Frères creates some of the most highly-sought after, soulful wines ever produced in Oregon. It is one of the Willamette Valley's most revered wineries, the name itself is the French idiom for brother-in-law—in recognition of Robert Parker, Jr., who co-invested in the 88-acre farm in the Ribbon Ridge sub-appellation that became the winery's estate vineyard.

Since the winery's inception in 1986, Beaux Frères has received consistently high scores from The Wine Spectator and more recently, from Antonio Galloni's Vinous Media. In 2017, the winery celebrated the release of its 25th vintage, the milestone also marked the beginning of a new partnership with eighth-generation French family-owned Maisons & Domaines Henriot. Michael's role in guiding vineyard, winery, and day-to-day operations continue, as will his partial ownership along with his brother-in-law, Robert Parker Jr., and Michael's son, Mike D. Etzel as winemaker.

With each new vintage, Michael's efforts further his family's vision to craft wines of great finesse and purity. Indeed, the Etzel's (both father and son's) wines have always been a portrait of weightlessness, concentration, and sublime harmony.

2015 Beaux Frères Beaux Frères Vineyard Pinot Noir

95 Points Josh Reynolds Vinous Media

Intensely perfumed aromas of raspberry liqueur, vanilla, Indian spices, and potpourri, along with a hint of smoky minerals that builds in the background. Densely packed and alluringly sweet, showing impressive depth and a bright mineral core to the sappy red berry, spice cake, and floral pastille flavors. Gains power with air while maintaining energy and focus. Smooth tannins build slowly and harmonize with the vibrant fruit on an impressively persistent, floral-driven finish.

2015 Beaux Frères Zena Crown Pinot Noir

94 Points Harvey Steiman Wine Spectator

Supple, open-textured and expressive, layering blueberry, plum and savory flavors into a harmonious whole, floating through a long finish against powdery tannins. Has presence and depth. Best from 2018 through 2024.

2015 Beaux Frères Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

93 Points Josh Reynolds Vinous Media

Brilliant red. Fresh red and blue fruits, pungent flowers, incense and smoky minerals on the highly perfumed nose. Pliant, spice-accented black raspberry, boysenberry, lavender pastille and cola flavors pick up a smoky mineral nuance as the wine stretches out. The floral note returns emphatically on the very long, seamless finish, which features an exotic Asian spice quality and smooth tannins.

2015 Beaux Frères Gran Moraine Pinot Noir

Winery Tasting Notes

An earlier ripening vineyard with boisterous, exuberant fruit. Greets with hints of oceanic air and hints of whole cluster influence. The palate follows with graham cracker and spice box and gains complexity in the glass. Polished, round tannins provide ample texture and length on the finish.

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