

# J. CHRISTOPHER



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESS - J. CHRISTOPHER 2011

“Any wine lover – not to mention Pinotophile – who neglects to explore the Willamette Valley’s vintage 2011 Pinots or to attend to the improbable tale of this growing season is going miss both wines and a story that are intriguing and inspiring, to say nothing of the drinking pleasure and insights with which both will reward the attentive and patient. The best of these wines display exceptional vivacity and complexity, featuring an uncanny alliance of levity and cut with textural refinement and incipient richness. Fresh red berries, citrus oils and marine mineral elements are among the more prominent flavor features of a family of Pinots that exhilarate and genuinely refresh.” – David Schildknecht, *Wine Advocate*



### J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, SANDRA ADELE, DUNDEE HILLS 2011

#### [93] *Wine Advocate*

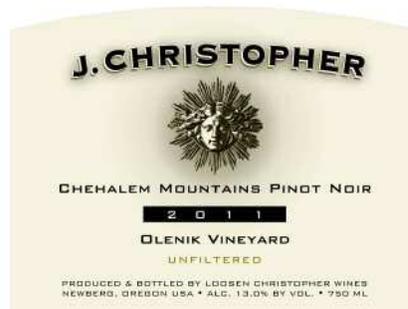
Sourced, as it was last year, from Charlie’s and Abbey Ridge vineyards on Worden Hill Road (and including Somers’ entire crop from the latter, as he did not essay an Abbey Ridge-dedicated 2011), the J. Christopher 2011 Pinot Noir Sandra Adele comprises 146 cases. A lovely, sachet-like herbal and floral melange in the nose – with rose petal and lavender prominent – is complemented by fragrant and juicy evocations of cherry and red currant. Silken and caressing but at the same time bright and juicy, this acquires salted caramel, veal stock, and faintly sweaty carnal-mineral notes in a long finish that preserves all of the captivating floral, herbal, and berry allure promised on the nose. *October 2015*

#### [88] *Wine Enthusiast*

This cuvée is not as ripe as it was in the 2010 vintage. It has a pleasant tomato-soup character - a mix of ripe tomato and light, fresh flavors of basil and cilantro. It also has plenty of tart cherry flavors filling in the midpalate, and is well proportioned for drinking over the next few years. *February 2014*

#### [89] *Wine & Spirits*

Scents of horehound and tea lead into this quiet, savory pinot. The flavors deepen with air, the sweet red fruits adorning a chewy texture. *June 2014*



### J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, OLENIK VINEYARD, CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS 2011

#### [93] *Wine Advocate*

Blackberry, cassis, cherry, high-toned citrus oils, and peat pungently scent the J. Christopher 2011 Pinot Noir Olenik Vineyard, which comes to the palate with sap and grip, its tannins more noticeable than in other wines of this collection but still fine-grained. There is a glowing intensity of cherry pit piquancy here that furthers an impressively penetrating, lusciously fruity and invigoratingly zesty, energetic finish. I can’t imagine this running out of juice or electricity before 2022. *October 2015*

#### [90] *Wine Enthusiast*

This single vineyard selection opens with tightly-focused raspberry- and cherry-candy flavors, wreathed in dried herbs, notably rosemary and thyme. Pepper and cinnamon spices appear as the wine opens, along with tasty highlights of nougat and chocolate. *February 2014*

## J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, BELLA VIDA VINEYARD, DUNDEE HILLS 2011

### [92] *Wine Advocate*

From four-fifths Wadenswil vines on Steven and Allison Whiteside's historic Worden Hill Road, the J. Christopher 2011 Pinot Noir Bella Vida – of which there are 122 cases – displays aromatically penetrating as well as brightly juicy plum and cherry, tinged with sandalwood, sage, beef blood, and saliva-liberating salinity. Sappy and vibrant, it finishes with a tart chew of fruit skin, piquant herbal accents, as well as a mouthwateringly savory meaty and mineral melange. I expect this to perform beautifully through at least 2020. *October 2015*

### [92] *Wine Enthusiast*

Bella Vida replaces the Abbey Ridge bottling and does so with pizzazz. The best of the 2011 releases, this is a beautiful expression of grapes grown on red clay soils, with refined, deeply penetrating flavors of ripe raspberries. Smooth, supple and long, with uncommon purity, it finishes with a kiss of chocolate from 18 months in one-quarter new oak barrels. *February 2014*

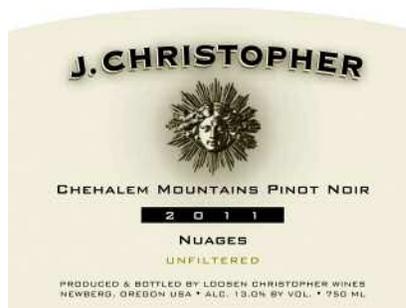
## J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, LIA'S VINEYARD, CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS 2011

### [91] *Wine Advocate*

Suggestions of saffras, ginger and root beer mingle with fresh plum and cherry in the J. Christopher 2011 Pinot Noir Lia's Vineyard, whose richness of texture, subtle creaminess and expansiveness mark the riper character of this site, but are combined with a bit less refinement or high-toned complexity than harbored by many of this collection's other Pinots. There is a vintage-typical bit of tartness in the finish, for now slightly detached. But this has length and depth already and is likely to gain in interest and harmony over at least the next half dozen years. *October 2015*

### [90] *Wine Enthusiast*

At first this wine seems rather light, with pretty flavors of bramble and wild strawberries. A light dusting of baking spices ensues, and slowly (over many hours) more details come into focus - fresh herbs, chocolate and cherries. There is more here than meets the eye, for those willing to give it some extra time. *February 2014*



## J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, NUAGES, CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS 2011 (AVA SERIES)

### [91] *Wine Advocate*

Sourced, as it was last year, from Adams, Lia's and Olenik Vineyards – all adjacent to J. Christopher's facilities, and reflecting their straddling of the volcanic-sedimentary soil interface as well their relative warmth – the 2011 Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Nuages delivers pungent blond tobacco and fresh ginger in the nose as well as on a bright but silken palate, inflecting fresh, succulent cherry and purple plum, and underlain by both suggestions of chalk and a mouthwatering evocation of marrow-rich beef stock. In Burgundian terms, I imagine this as a Morey-St.-Denis, halfway between Chambolle's high-toned, spicy brightness and the deep cherry and meatiness of Gevrey. Interestingly, while he agonized over the corresponding Dundee Hills bottling, Somers says one blending session and this Nuages was definitively done. *October 2015*

### [91] *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar*

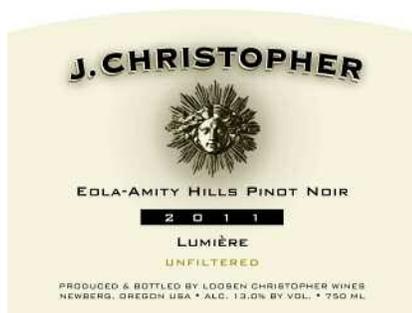
Bright red. Spicy redcurrant and cherry on the nose, with subtle mineral, vanilla and rose pastille qualities adding complexity. Energetic red fruit, mocha and spicecake flavors show very good clarity and lift thanks to tangy acidity. Musky herb and anise qualities come up on the long, gripping finish, with the cherry and mocha notes echoing. *July/August 2014*

### [88] *Wine Enthusiast*

The name comes from a Django tune, and also means "clouds" in French. Nothing cloudy here though - it's a pretty, lively, fruit-driven blend with cherry candy flavors. Crisp and fresh, a streak of cola runs comet-like through the tail, along with a hint of mint. *February 2014*

### [90] *Wine & Spirits*

This bright, berry-scented pinot has assertive herbal notes. It's peppery in the middle, with a savory core that needs time to come together. The length is precise, even as it feels a bit sharp on the finish, something that will resolve in the cellar. *April 2014*



### J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, LUMIÈRE, EOLA-AMITY HILLS 2011 (AVA SERIES)

#### [92] *Wine & Spirits*

Showing the tense focus of the vintage, this unfiltered pinot has a dark core of concentrated fruit. Its earthy density starts off sleek and finishes with a stoniness that's a hallmark of the Eola-Amity Hills. Give it some time in the cellar to shake off that vintage reticence, then serve with pork loin. *April 2014*

#### [91] *Wine Advocate*

Sourced principally from Dubai and Three Angels vineyards in the Walnut Hills, and representing – at 756 cases – a steep ramping-up in quantity from last year's inaugural rendition, J. Christopher's 2011 Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills Lumière is gorgeously scented with violet, cassis, and allspice. Intimations of wet stone gain prominence on the sappy dark berry-filled and palpably extract-rich – even broad-shouldered – palate. Notwithstanding its name, this is the metaphorically darkest of the present collection, and the most obviously structured. The finish – incorporating iodine, smoky black tea, and brown spices – is at once broad and gripping, while retaining the sort of energy and abundant primary juiciness that one expects from 2011. *October 2015*

#### [90] *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar*

Bright red. Vibrant cherry and dark berry scents are complicated by dried rose and spicecake. Taut, sharply focused blackberry and bitter cherry flavors are given lift and spine by juicy acidity, picking up a hint of smokiness with air. Closes with very good energy, an echo of florality and dusty tannins that come on late. *July/August 2014*

#### [89] *Wine Enthusiast*

This Pinot Noir offers zippy acidity and floral hints of roses and violets. The bright raspberry flavors are set in a delicate frame of one-quarter new French oak. *February 2014*

#### *Biggertbanyourhead.net*

Medium ruby color;...red currants and red cherries touched with smoke, graphite and more spice that edges into sassafras territory, with a note of allspice's characteristic spare and exotic woody quality; briars and brambles make an appearance, over finely sifted tannins and acidity that cuts swath on the palate. My favorite kind of Pinot Noir. *March 2014*



### J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR, LA MER, YAMHILL-CARLTON 2011 (AVA SERIES)

#### [91] *Wine Advocate*

An inaugural cuvee of merely 124 cases, the J. Christopher 2011 Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton La Mer originated in a single site adjacent to Belle Pente and represents, says Somers, an example of especially restrained working of the cap to avoid excess tannin and enhance aromatic refinement. It seems to have succeeded! A lovely nose mingles smoky black tea and bergamot in an Earl Gray way, accompanied by scents and luscious juiciness of cherry and red currant. What little tannin one detects here is ultra-fine, for an impression of polish to complement that of vivacity. A lentil sprout-like piquantly nutty and subtly vegetal note adds to the stimulation, and subtle salinity to the saliva-inducement of a long and genuinely refreshing finish. This should delight and intrigue through at least 2018. *October 2015*



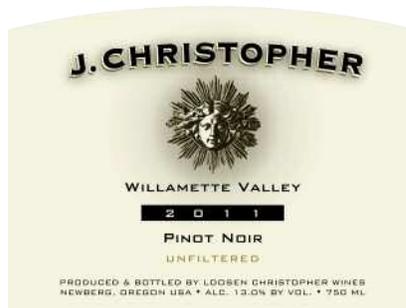
**J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR,  
DUNDEE HILLS CUVÉE 2011 (AVA SERIES)**

**[90] *Wine Advocate***

The J. Christopher 2011 Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Cuvée unites fruit from, most prominently, Bella Vida, Baptista Maresh, Le Pavillon, and Abbey Ridge, being as such a reflection of the prime Worden Hill Road stretch. Almost stridently bright in its evocation of sour cherry, red currant and rhubarb, this is strongly shadowed by high-toned kirsch distillate, lemon oil and sealing wax. An undertone of dried blood and iron-rich tonic of some sort seems to mysteriously creep in here as well. And amazingly, there is a fine sense of textural richness running parallel to all of the energy and tart acidity on display, and a finish of impressive, penetrating persistence as well as sheer refreshment. "I tried out a lot of blends, and tasted the wines for hours and hours each time, trying to get this a bit more forward and approachable," says Somers. "But I kept coming back to this (blend). And for me this is what Dundee was in 2011, and the whole purpose of my A.V.A. series of wines is to capture the A.V.A. in that vintage." I suspect this will prove deliciously versatile through 2018 if not beyond. *October 2013*

**[90] *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar***

Light, unfiltered-looking red. Spicy cherry, black raspberry and cola on the perfumed nose. Supple and appealingly sweet, offering juicy red fruit and floral pastille flavors with a hint of spicecake. Opens up and gains weight with air, finishing with lingering spiciness and a touch of bitter chocolate. Nicely balanced pinot in a restrained style that will appeal to Burgundy fans. *July/August 2014*



**J. CHRISTOPHER PINOT NOIR,  
WILLAMETTE VALLEY 2011**

**[91] *Wine & Spirits***

High toned and a touch herbal, this wine seems tentative at first, but with some air a soil-like depth comes into play, and the palate opens up toward a dark-fruited expanse, focused and lean as the vintage dictates. *June 2014*

**[88] *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar***

Hazy red. Cherry pit, bitter chocolate, pungent herbs and licorice on the nose, with a hint of smokiness in the background. A lively, gently chewy midweight that offers bitter cherry and redcurrant flavors that turn sweeter with air. Finishes clean and nervy, with gently gripping tannins adding shape. *July/August 2014*