

X NOVO

REVIEWS & SCORES

Decanter

Clive Pursehouse - April 16, 2025

X Novo 2021 X Omni Chardonnay - 96 Points

We're not in a rush and don't bottle everything, says Craig, We have very high expectations, 60-70% new French oak with complete malolactic fermentation. It shows subtly on the aromatics, with notes of sweet vanilla and a touch of lemon drop candy. The fruit is soaring with a wildly balanced note of toasted almond and hazelnuts, there's an electric undercurrent that buoys a ripe fruit density, it's not dense, it's balanced, but undoubtedly ripe pineapple and mango. The finish is zesty and mineral with sterling salinity.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Chardonnay - 94 Points

Saline and mineral with soaring notes of chipped flint, smoky grilled lemon wedge, wild whiteflowers, and it's thirst slaking in it's acidity, The fruit in the 2022 vintage ranged from over to slightly underripe and it shows a gleaming edge of mineral salinity.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Pinot Noir - 96 Points

Notes of roasted cinnamon stick and ripe red plums and sweet spices. 50-70% new French oak show on the aromatics, there's an intensity to the fruit, with dark plums and black tea round off the edges and layer ripe fruits and sweet notes of blueberries, savoury dried herbs and taut blackberries.

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Courtney Humiston - July 31, 2025

X Novo 2021 X Omni Chardonnay - 96 Points

Lemons, limes and touches of white peaches and sweet-spicy ginger on the nose. The palate is very bright, salty, chalky and savory, with flavors of sage and white mushrooms. Textural layers balance depth with precision. There is a clean sense of purity and energy to this medium-bodied wine. It offers much to explore in years to come. Drink or hold.

X Novo 2021 X Omni Pinot Noir - 94 Points

A very pretty, medium-bodied wine with aromas of spices, flowers, cola red cherries and cinnamon. The palate is fresh, with flavors of anise, raspberries, cranberries and orange zest. Fine, tight tannin, sinewy acidity and a long finish. Drink or hold.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Chardonnay - 96 Points

An energetic and nervy medium-bodied wine with incredible length. Delicate aromas of orchard fruit, citrus zest, wet stones, jasmine and fresh ginger. A steely core of acidity framed with pears, citrus, chalk and hints of spices and nuts from the oak. This wine is built for aging but is really pretty and wonderful right now.

X Novo 2021 X Omni Pinot Noir - 94 Points

On the nose earth, spices and black cherries. Wonderful deep and dense dark fruit on the palate, along with hints of pine duff and forest floor. Seamless tannins and mineral-driven length. Medium-bodied, compact and tense. It will be nice to watch this wine evolve in two years' time. Drink from 2027.

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SEAN P. SULLIVAN
NORTHWEST WINE REPORT

Sean Sullivan - August 11, 2025

X Novo 2021 X Omni Chardonnay - 97 Points

It is exceedingly rare to see Chardonnay with this combination of intensity, texture, liveliness, and balance. The wine was raised 18 months in French oak (50% new). The aromas are intoxicating, with notes of struck flint, wet stone, citrus, orchard fruit, and a whiff of butterscotch. The palate has profound depth, intensity, textural richness, and, above all, balance. Truly vibrant, mouthwatering acidity gives the wine energy and propels it forward. An incredibly lengthy, persistent, just-will-not-quit, mouthwatering finish caps it off, flecked with toasty accents. It's nothing short of an accomplishment for this producer, appellation, and region. Best from 2026 to 2033. 13.1% alcohol. TCA-free micro-agglomerated cork. 230 cases produced.

X Novo 2021 X Omni Pinot Noir - 97 Points

This wine has it all: aromatic complexity, flavor richness, breathtaking texture, exquisite balance, and absurd length. Aged in French oak (60% new), the aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of strawberry, dark cherry, mushroom, plum, dark spice, and black tea, showing appealing detail and sophistication. The palate is an explosion of medium-bodied fruit flavors, cascading in a series of shock waves. The acidity is lively and exceptionally well-integrated with the fruit. The balance is perfect. The alcohol is moderate. The finish appears endless. Keep a defibrillator close by. This wine is a heart stopper, at the extreme upper reaches of quality – one of the best examples of this variety I've had from the broader Willamette Valley or really from anywhere. Best after 2026. 13.5% alcohol. TCA-free micro-agglomerated cork. 127 cases produced.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Chardonnay - 95 Points

As with its 2021 vintage counterpart, this is a profound bottle of Chardonnay. Aged 18 months in French oak (70% new), the aromas offer notes of toasty spices, struck flint, wet stone, lemon curd, cardamom, and ginger, with an aroma profile that, blind tasting, might make one think of Burgundy. The palate is on the lighter side of medium-bodied, texturally rich with vibrant, lemony acidity. The balance is exceptional and the length outrageous. Decant. 13.2% alcohol. TCA-free micro-agglomerated cork. 335 cases produced.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Pinot Noir - 96 Points

The aromas are arresting, with notes of steeped black tea, forest floor, plum, spice, dark fruit, and a whiff of coffee, mixing fruit and savory. The palate is full of intensity, richness, and texture, all in a medium-bodied, moderate alcohol frame. Fresh, exceptionally well-integrated acidity ties it all together. The balance is knee-buckling, and the blood orange-filled finish just will not quit, sticking around as long as you care to follow it. It's a wine that is near impossible to put down, and when you do, it's only to pour another glass. Best after 2026. 13.7% alcohol. TCA-free micro-agglomerated cork. 199 cases produced.

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Eric Guido - July 2025

X Novo 2022 X Omni Chardonnay - 94 Points

The 2022 Chardonnay X Omni Vineyard opens with a bouquet of wildflowers, a basket of freshly picked orchard fruit and a hint of lemon oil. The palate is soothingly round, with a strong mineral component and vividly ripe green apple, all energized by a bolt of juicy acidity. It tapers off long and nearly crunchy in feel, with nuances of apricot and tropical citrus that linger for up to a minute. The 70% new oak is beautifully integrated, adding texture while allowing the 2022's pure fruit to shine.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Pinot Noir - 93 Points

The 2022 Pinot Noir X Omni Vineyard slowly evolves with an understated yet pretty blend of freshly cut roses, violet pastille, stone dust and crushed strawberries. Silken textures and radiant wild berry fruits sweep across the palate while a subtle twang of sour citrus adds lovely contrast. A hint of licorice resonates as the 2022 finishes with excellent length, lightly tannic and wonderfully fresh.

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Paul Gregutt's NW Wine Guide®

Paul Gregutt - May 1, 2025

X Novo 2021 X Omni Chardonnay - 97 Points

This is the third Chardonnay release from Craig Williams, whose X Novo and X Omni vineyards have quickly attracted a near-cult following among Oregon winemakers. It's a sexy, sultry wine, mouth-coating and viscous. The rich, exuberant palate is loaded with apricot and peach, pear and papaya, caramel and toasted hazelnuts. Half the barrels were new, half neutral. As with all of the best Eola-Amity Chardonnays the acids are superb, and keep the finish lively and refreshed. This is a spectacular effort from start to finish, with aging potential over the moon.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Chardonnay - 96 Points

The lovely aromatics pull you into an expressive and detailed wine with a head-spinning mix of citrus zest, bee pollen and wet stones. The palate is mineral-driven, laced with more citrus rind and flesh, white pepper, crisp apple, white peach and zesty radish. The acids are proportionate and supportive. The differences between the 2021 and 2022 vintages are perfectly reflected in these two wines, which offer a window on the vineyard, the region and the conditions that made the two years completely different. This wine saw 70% new oak, and finishes with a resonantly toasty frame.

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JEB DUNNUCK

Audrey Frick - August 26, 2025

X Novo 2021 X Omni Chardonnay - 93 Points

The 2021 Chardonnay X Omni Vineyard is a pale yellow/straw hue and is ripe with notes of melon, wet stone, lemon sherbet, and fresh linen. In the cellar, it saw 18 months in 50% new French oak. The palate has a good amount of intensity and a light touch of sweet, white peachy fruit. It's an approachable white, with bright acidity shining on the finish, along with a savory, bitter lime pith note. Drink 2025-2032. The fruit for this wine was picked a month earlier than it was for the 2022. 230 cases were produced.

X Novo 2021 X Omni Pinot Noir - 93

The 2021 Pinot Noir X Omni Vineyard is from the first vintage X Novo released under their own label and is the only red released by the estate thus far. A bright red color in the glass, it takes on aromas of strawberries, savory herbs, raspberries, and dried earth, and on the palate, it's very charming and approachable, with medium-bodied richness. Its fruit lasts long and floats on the palate, with fine tannins and refreshing acidity on the finish. It's a highly appealing wine now and should hold up over the next 10-12 years.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Chardonnay - 94 Points

A bright yellow color, the 2022 Chardonnay X Omni Vineyard is from the first vintage produced after Jamie Lewis left Antica Terra and joined the team. In the glass, this vintage has a more refined feel and a touch more rounded texture compared to the 2021. It concludes with sweeter citrus notes instead of bitterness. In the glass, it shows notes of toast, fresh pear, refreshing lime and lemon, and white flowers. It's full-bodied, though it stays light on its feet and has a graceful feel, with a bit of toasty oak incense lasting on the long finish. Drink 2025-2035. 335 cases were produced.

X Novo 2022 X Omni Pinot Noir - 94 Points

The second vintage of this cuvée, the 2022 Pinot Noir X Omni Vineyard pours a bright medium red and opens with spicier, high-toned aromatics of cinnamon, ripe cranberries, pine, and stemmy rose. The palate is medium-bodied and spicy, with chalky tannins, light astringency, and lasting toasted spice on the finish. Drink 2026-2038.