



J. CHRISTOPHER 2017 Bella Vida Vineyard Pinot Noir

A complex and evocative Pinot Noir that beautifully expresses the floral elegance of the Red Hills of Dundee.

The Bella Vida vineyard is one of our favorite sites in the heart of the Dundee Hills. With its deep red Jory clay and its stunning view of the Willamette Valley, this vineyard consistently produces exceptional fruit that captures the essence of this beautiful place on earth. The 2017 has the delicacy and fine fruitiness that are characteristic of these hills. It's a wine that emphasizes finesse over power, with a superb acid structure that will give it great ageability.

ABOUT THE 2017 VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage was excellent in the Willamette Valley, in spite of a very hot summer and the worrisome threat of wildfires. We brought in superbly ripe fruit, the harvest itself was less frenzied than in most years, and the wines have turned out beautifully. Because of the warm summer, we thought we were in for another very early harvest. Fortunately, cooler weather and a bit of cleansing rain came to us in September. After the fast start in summer, this respite gave the fruit time to finish ripening at a much slower pace, while retaining freshening acidity.

ABOUT J. CHRISTOPHER

Located in the Chehalem Mountains AVA, in Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley, the J. Christopher winery focuses on Pinot Noir made using the traditional methods of the Old World. Owned by renowned Mosel winegrower, Ernst "Erni" Loosen (owner of the Dr. Loosen estate), the wines are hand-crafted in small lots and are sourced from our estate Appassionata Vineyard, as well as other excellent vineyards in the Willamette Valley that we have worked with for years. The philosophy at J. Christopher is to produce terroir-driven wines in an Old World style that emphasizes focus, length and balance.

TECHNICAL INFO

Appellation: Dundee Hills

Vineyard Source: Bella Vida Vineyard

Soil Type: Volcanic

Clones: Pommard, Wädenswil

Age of Vines: 12 to 19 years

Viticulture: Sustainable; dry farmed

Average Yield: 2.5 tons per acre

Vinification: 100% destemmed; native yeast fermentation; unforced malolactic; 18 months in barriques (25% new); no fining or filtration.

Alcohol: 13.5%

Total Production: 247 cases

UPC: 810404020227

FROM THE PRESS

[93] Vinous

"A highly fragrant bouquet evokes ripe red berries, cherry, potpourri and savory herbs, and a mineral nuance builds as the wine opens up. Sappy and penetrating on the palate, offering appealingly sweet raspberry, boysenberry, cherry and rose pastille flavors accented by five-spice powder and underbrush flourishes."

[92] Wine Enthusiast

"A finesse wine with a floral nose and pretty though light cherry fruit flavors. It's framed with orange citrus and finished with tannins that taste of chamomile tea."

[92] Wine Spectator

"Supple and elegantly complex with vibrant cherry and raspberry flavors laced with black tea, spicy cinnamon and linger toward refined tannins."

