



WILLAMETTE VALLEY

2013 “Basalt Block” Pinot Noir Willamette Valley - McMinnville AVA

In 2004, Robert decided to leave Napa Valley after 28 years for the cooler climate of the Willamette Valley to focus on Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Syrah. It took him years to find a site that he and his wife Ellen now call home. The Brittan Vineyard is situated on the east side of the Coastal Range foothills, in the McMinnville AVA. The importance of site-selection is most apparent in Pinot Noir, which is why Robert selected this cool mountain site to make unique, expressive Pinot Noir grown in ancient, broken basalt, glacial deposits, and volcanic soils.

The Basalt Block Pinot Noir comes from the parts of the vineyard that have the heaviest concentration of broken sub-marine basalts, resulting in low yielding vines that produce intensely flavored wine. The 2013 vintage in the Willamette Valley was warm and dry during the summer, then cooled off dramatically in September before the heavy rains at harvest. Yields for the Basalt Block were 1.75 ton per acre. The 2013 Basalt Block Pinot Noir reveals red-fruited notes of black cherry, red plum skin, black raspberry, and red licorice on the nose. As the wine slides onto the palate notes of red currant, cassis, blackberry compote, pomegranate, French lavender, bergamot, and orange zest unveil, framed in by black pepper and allspice. The layers of complexity, savoriness, and strong mid palate provide the backbone for the wine and create a long, lingering, elegant finish.

The Pinot Noir for the Basalt Block consists predominantly of the Pommard selection, blended with clonal selections 667, 777, 115, and Swan. The vines are planted on Riparia Gloire, 3309 and 101-14 rootstocks. The fruit for the 2013 vintage was picked in late September before the heavy rains and allowed to cold soak for four days before fermentation began. After fermentation, the wine was aged in French Oak barrels, approximately 25% new. The wine went through malo-lactic fermentation in barrel and was barrel-aged for 12 months.

Production: 1326 cases
Bottled: December 2014

