



CRISTOM LOUISE PINOT NOIR 2014

Appellation: Eola-Amity Hills; Willamette Valley; Oregon; USA

Winemaker: Steve Doerner
Closure: Cork
Alcohol: 14.0%
Certified Sustainably Grown



Vineyard

Cristom owner Paul Gerrie's maternal grandmother is the namesake for the Louise Vineyard, the first of the Cristom estate vineyards to be planted. Top slopes that run up against woodland separate Louise's lower vineyards from the upper, causing them to spend late afternoon in shade. The fruit on the lower slopes, which get more sun, is often the first of the season to be harvested. Beginning with the 1996 release, Louise has produced a wine that is more firmly structured than the wine from the other sites, full of deep and silky tannins. Characterised by a rich nose that's big and intense, Louise lingers on the palate, her story slowly unfolding.

Reviews

A mild touch of reduction does not completely overshadow the otherwise well-layered array of raspberry, cherry, briar and spice-scented nose. The supple, round and delicious flavors possess a velvety mid-palate before concluding in a lingering and solidly complex finish. This is really quite good as well and while it can't quite compete with the best in the range, it is still worth investigating. Note that if you're going to try a bottle young to be sure to allow it 15 to 20 minutes of air first. To 2021 + - **91points, Burghound Issue 68, Oct 2017.**

Aromas of toffee, ripe fruit and chocolate follow through to a full body, soft tannins and walnut/hazelnut undertones. Soft textured. Delicious finish. Drink or hold. - **93 points JamesSuckling.com - Nov. 2016**

Tasting Notes

Louise Vineyard is typically the last single vineyard wine to be released. The wine exhibits dark fruits, and a dusty, earthy nose with balanced oak vanilla as the high note. The palate has mouth-coating tannins with great persistence and balance. The fruit profile is mixed on the palate with a combination of concentrated black currant, black cherry, and black licorice, along with bright, vibrant red fruit and great integration of cinnamon spice from the stem inclusion.

Vintage

The 2014 vintage will be remembered as one of the great vintages in Willamette Valley winegrowing history. A warm, but nearly ideal growing season delivered the rare combination of abundant quantity and exceptional quality fruit that developed into aromatic wines of balance, depth and concentration. The season got off to a warm and dry start with the earliest budbreak and bloom. Growing conditions were mostly dry and warmer than normal throughout the spring and the vineyards produced heavy clusters and large berries. The warm weather conditions continued throughout the summer leading to record high temperatures and the earliest start date to harvest in over two decades. The 2014 vintage broke the previous record for heat accumulation during the growing season, set in 1992.

