



Vineyards

Belle Vallée Cellars currently contracts with sixteen vineyards to produce the high quality grapes used in its wines. Winemaker, Joseph Wright, has worked with many of the vineyard managers over the past twelve years, and has developed a great familiarity with the fruit we have selectively contracted. This knowledge helps develop the consistency and unique qualities of Belle Vallée Cellars' wines. Joe's style is to blend the wines by obtaining grapes from a variety of top locations within Oregon. This approach helps build complex wines with depth and character beyond the reach of a single vineyard.

The vineyards are located in the western half of Oregon, in two recognized appellations; Willamette Valley and Rogue Valley. We rely on the Willamette Valley to provide all of our cool climate fruit, Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris. We have spread the purchase of our fruit between the northern and southern halves of the appellation to ensure that we are taking advantage of the differences within this 200 mile long valley that best reflect the Burgundy growing region of France. Rogue Valley, in contrast, best reflects ideal growing conditions for Bordeaux varietals and offers characteristics unique to Southern Oregon.

Northern Willamette Valley

Winters Hill

Winter's Hill Vineyard has been in the family since 1961, when Emily Gladhart's parents, John and Lena Winter, purchased a fruit and grain farm on a corner of Oregon's Dundee Hills. Peter & Emily and their son Russell planted the first 19 acres of grapes in 1990, 12 acres of Pinot Noir and 7 acres of Pinot Gris. The vineyard's elevation of 525 to 730 feet on south facing slopes provides optimum warmth during summer days while exposing it to cool ocean breezes every afternoon that drop evening temperatures into the 50's. These conditions bring the slow, gentle ripening so essential to the delicate character of fine Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris. The Gladhart's entire vineyard is certified by LIVE of Oregon (Low Input Viticulture & Enology) as Sustainable and Salmon Safe. This program seeks to promote sustainable viticulture by minimizing the use of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers while still protecting the farmer, the environment and society at large. This was only achieved after a three year trial period and site inspections.

Temperance Hill Vineyard

Edward Koo and family, owners of Temperance Hill Vineyard and vineyard manager Dai Crisp farm the 100 acre vineyard on a variety of slopes in the Eola/ Amity appellation. Temperance is the largest and highest in elevation (700'-900') vineyard in this appellation located in the Eola Hills, just northeast of Salem Oregon. Established in 1981 and certified Salmon Safe Temperance Hill Vineyard is planted primarily on ritner and nekiah soils with some interjecting jory. Directly in the path of the Van Duzer corridor Temperance's vast swing's between day and night time temperatures are directly related to the corridors coastal/marine influence.

Freedom Hill Vineyard

Freedom Hill Vineyard was planted in 1982 by Dan and Helen Dusschee who still own and operate the vineyard. Located in the foothills of the Oregon coast range Freedom Hill Vineyard features Bellpine loam soils which lend a specific terroir to wines originating from the grapes produced here. Freedom Hill Vineyard produces Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Chardonnay. The distinctive character of the soil and meticulous farming create consistent, structured and powerful wines.

Vitae Springs Vineyard

Earl and Pam Van Volkinburg developed a passion for growing grapes and making wine, while they were based in the U.S. Air Force in the Mosel Valley of Germany. When back home in the Willamette Valley they searched for the perfect land with the ideal exposure, right elevations, well drained soil and cool climate conditions - Vitae Springs Vineyard was planted in 1970 in the West Salem Hill's. The Van Volkinburg family was among the first to plant a vineyard in the Willamette Valley and are proud to have some of the oldest vines in the region. Having grown up among the vines Joel Van Volkinburg presently manages day to day activities at Vitae Springs Vineyards. The Van Volkinburg's maintain an elevated standard with their farming practices and respect the growth of vines and what Mother Nature brings them each year. Their goal in the vineyard is to simply allow each block to express its individual character without interfering or manipulating the fruit.

Lemelson Vineyards (Stermer Vineyard)

Lemelson Vineyards (Stermer Vineyard) are owned by Eric Lemelson. The vineyard, originally planted in 1997, is located on the western edge of Yamhill County, near the town of Carlton, Oregon. Eric and Vineyard Manager Armando Martinez believe in the importance of quality control at every stage of wine production, from bud break to harvest they have high standards for their farming practices, which are certified organic by Oregon Tilth, Eric and Armando strive to improve the health of the soil, as well as the ecosystem their vineyards are part of. They also work hard to manage the vineyard's canopies to let natural forces, such as the sun and the wind, keep diseases that affect vine health and wine quality at bay.

Momtazi Vineyard

In 1997, Moe and Flora Momtazi purchased 532 acres of abandoned wheat farm just south of their home in McMinnville, Oregon. Though most saw it as wild and uncared for, Moe saw a vital, thriving piece of land that had been free from chemicals for seven years. Momtazi Vineyards practice holistic farming, employing practices from both organic and Biodynamic agriculture. By using such methods they not only believe that they are enhancing the ecology of their land, but also growing the best grapes possible.

Zena Crown Vineyard

Zena Crown™ is located towards the southern end of the Eola-Amity Hills AVA, which is located within the Willamette Valley, home to many of Oregon's finest Pinot Noir vineyards. During the growing season, ocean breezes push through the Van Duzer Corridor in the Coastal Range maintaining a consistently cool climate that is the hallmark of all great Pinot Noir winegrowing regions. This climate, combined with the shallow, well-drained volcanic soils of the Nekia series that dominate this area, are the primary reasons the Eola-Amity Hills AVA is emerging as one of the world's most exciting wine growing regions. Zena Crown™ is LIVE and Salmon Safe Certified.

Meridian Estate Vineyard

Meridian Estate Vineyard is owned and managed by Chris and Sharon Deckelmann, Located in the Waldo Hills just outside of Silverton Oregon at an elevation spanning from 500'-670' it was planted in 2000 on a Scott Henry trellis, Meridian's split canopy and older vigorous vines provide us with a generous amount of fantastic quality fruit.

Abiqua Wind

Owners and operators Pete and Marcia Buffington, nurture a nearly 3 decade-old, dry farmed, own-rooted vineyard nestled in the foothills near Silverton Oregon. They practice hands-on viticulture... managing all aspects of the vineyard from ground and canopy management the spray program to leaf pulling, fruit thinning and harvest.

Left Coast Vineyard

Punctuated by old-growth white oak savannahs, the vineyards of Left Coast Cellars are planted in the rocky, shallow soils southwest of the Eola-Amity Hills. Under the guidance of Viticulturist Luke McCollom, each vineyard block was strategically planted to maximize character and a unique sense of place in the resulting wines. The employment of sustainable and organic vineyard practices promotes abundant bio-diversity and outstanding vine health. Left Coast is a consistent producer of grapes that lend expressive fruit, spice and distinctive minerality to the finished wine.

Johan Vineyard

Located in the Van Duzer corridor in the foothills of the coastal range of Oregon, Owner Dag Johan Sunbby a native Norwegian established Johan Vineyard in 2002 to 95% Pinot Noir of varying Dijon clone's and rootstock's. The balance was planted to Dijon clones of Chardonnay. Johan Vineyard is managed by Dan Rinke originally from Milwaukee, WI studied and graduated from Fresno State and moved to Oregon in 2007. Dan's sustainable and environmentally friendly farming techniques coupled with meticulous fruit thinning, canopy management and spray routines have allowed us to make some outstanding Pinot Noir.

Rudolph Vineyard

Located on a bench off the valley floor in the Willamette Valley AVA, owners Dan and Jacque Rudolph planted their 10 acre vineyard in 1997 to 100% Pinot Gris. Rudolph Vineyard is managed by Dai Crisp since 2001 who also manages Temperance Hill. In accordance with management at Temperance, Dai's farming practices follow Oregon Tillth using only natural fertilizers and no herbicides.

Southern Willamette Valley

Alpine Vineyard

Established in 1976, Alpine Vineyard sits in a rain shadow of the east side of Oregon's coastal range in southern Benton County, at elevations ranging from 600'-650' Alpine Vineyard is one of very few original un-phyloxerated plantings/vineyards left in the Willamette Valley. This unique 25-acre vineyard is home to primarily Pinot Noir but also 2 acres of Pinot Gris, 2 acres of Chardonnay and interestingly a small very successful planting of Cabernet Sauvignon. Owners Dan and Christine Jepsen are pioneers in the early Oregon winemaking/growing industry.

Whybra Vineyards

Whybra Vineyards was planted by Steve Whybra in 1992 and is located on a true south facing slope in the South Willamette Valley elevations spanning from 530'-700' feet. In the early 90's, Steve was one of the first Oregon growers to plant these, now sought after and proven Dijon clones, clones 113, 115, 777. He also had the foresight to plant entirely on phylloxera resistant rootstock.

Rogue Valley, Oregon

Quail Run Vineyards

Owners Don and Traute Moore, a Missouri and Austrian native, made the move up from Southern California in 1989 to establish Quail Run Vineyard's, the first of many to come. Don and Traute have continued to plant since '89 they have been intimately involved in the design and execution of Pleasant View Vineyard (12acre), Griffin Creek Vineyard (25acre), Sundown Vineyard (25acre), Lakeside Vineyard (25acre), Fort Miller Vineyard (30acre) and the newest and most impressive is Crater View (80acre). These vineyards are planted with a range of varietals from Pinot Noir and Gris to diverse Bordeaux and Rhone Varietals. Quail Run's, vineyard manager is Chris Hubert he is personally involved in all aspects of managing day to day operations for the Moore's. Chris graduated with honors from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and since started managing vineyards in Napa before finally moving to Southern Oregon in 2003.

Del Rio Vineyard

Del Rio Vineyards lies 15 miles northwest of Medford, Oregon at historic Rock Point in the beautiful Rogue River Valley. Located along the 42nd parallel and at an altitude of approximately 1,000 feet, the vineyard enjoys a wonderful climate. The rocky south facing slopes of the vineyard drain well, and provide excellent terrain for producing premium wine grapes. Owned and operated by Rob and Jolee Wallace, the vineyard was planted in 1998.