

Brittan Vineyards

2011 PUNCHEON PINOT NOIR

Winemaker Robert Brittan, a wine industry veteran with over 40 harvest under his belt, has always had a passion for Pinot noir; a love affair that began in the 80's when he made several vintages under his Britt Hill label with fruit from Carneros. In 2004, Robert decided to leave Stags' Leap Winery in Napa and start a Pinot noir project in the cool climate of the North Willamette Valley.

VINEYARD NOTES

The Brittan Vineyard lies just 12 miles southwest of McMinnville, tucked into the foothills of the Coastal Range. The original 18 acres were planted in 2001, but due to the challenging nature of this site and limited topsoil, only eight acres survived. Since 2004 when Robert and Ellen purchased the vineyard, it has been an ongoing rehabilitation project: replanting, retraining, and learning the unique landscape that has become Brittan Vineyard.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2011 vintage was the latest in Oregon history, with fruit starting to come into the winery mid-October. It was fortunate that the late autumnal rains held off, resulting in fruit that ripened slowly and had beautiful hang time. The Puncheon Pinot Noir was produced from hand-selected blocks from Brittan Vineyard, picked in late October with yields of 1 ton per acre. It was then fermented in a 400-liter double French oak barrel (known as a puncheon), with about 10% whole cluster.

TASTING NOTES

Swirl the glass to release the perfumed aroma cherry blossoms, cassis, and dark Amarena cherry. This masculine-style Pinot noir broadens onto the palate to unfold savory notes of soy, smoky tobacco leaf, dried sage, black raspberry, black tea, and cracked black peppercorns. The wine finishes long and lean, with an undercurrent of spiciness.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 48 cases

SELECTIONS: Swan and Pommard

ELEVAGE: 10 months, 35% new French oak

DATE BOTTLED: August 2012

ALCOHOL: 13.6%

SRP: \$75/ 750 mL

