

Brittan Vineyards

2017 CYGNUS BLOCK PINOT NOIR

Winemaker Robert Brittan, a wine industry veteran with over 45 harvests 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.

BLOCK NOTES

The three-acre, east facing Cygnus Block was planted in 2008 to the low-yielding Swan Selection of Pinot noir (the only single-selection block on the property). Unlike the rest of the vineyard, rows here are planted in an east/west orientation giving the block a different exposure to the sun and reducing the influence of the Van Duzer winds, which are channeled through the rows instead of across them. This block's unique aspect, orientation, and selection create fresh, balanced, seamless wines brimming with red fruits.

VINTAGE NOTES

Akin to the prior three vintages, 2017 provided a consistently warm growing season for the vines at our estate vineyard, resulting in generous (for us) average yields approaching two tons per acre. Springtime flowering and fruit set, while delayed by a cool and wet winter, were even across the blocks and dry conditions at harvest meant little to no pressure from disease. The resulting wines are full bodied yet retain the mineral notes and taut core of acidity that have become the hallmarks of Brittan Vineyards.

TASTING NOTES

The trademark red fruits of Cygnus Block Pinot noir are in good supply this vintage, including the bright sweetness of red currants, Amarena cherries, red plum and a hint of raspberry alongside more savory notes like black tea, bergamot, licorice, and baking spices. The wine wraps-up with bright acidity, lingering juiciness, and a long, elegant finish.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 260 cases

SELECTIONS: Swan

ELEVAGE: 12 months in French oak, 28% new

DATE BOTTLED: December 12, 2018

ALCOHOL: 13.7%

SRP: \$60/ 750 mL

