

Brittan Vineyards

2018 BASALT BLOCK PINOT NOIR

Winemaker Robert Brittan, a wine industry veteran with the experience of over 45 harvests, has always had a passion for Pinot noir; a love affair that began in the 1980'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 northern Willamette Valley.

BLOCK NOTES

The Basalt Block, a seven-acre south-facing bowl at the heart of our hillside vineyard, is planted primarily to Pinot noir selections 777 and Pommard. This part of the vineyard has the most exposure to the ancient, fractured marine basalts that underlie the entire property. Direct interaction between vine roots and base geology produces the truest expression of site: in our case, savory, mineral-driven, red-fruited wines with pronounced acidity.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2018 vintage started cool and wet in February and March, which led to a more "normal" budbreak in April. The season quickly accelerated and was warm and dry beginning in May. Summer brought very warm, dry weather through August, which put pressure on the vines and produced fruit of great depth and concentration. September was dry but more moderate and allowed the fruit to reach full maturity by the end of the month.

TASTING NOTES

With the recent fine tuning of the block boundaries and a new predominance of selection 777, the refocused Basalt Block is at an inflection point. The intensely fruited core of plum, blackberry and raspberry is complemented by a lovely vein of salinity and just a hint of dried herbs, while the wine's firm acid backbone provides structure and balance. A very promising pivot for one of our oldest blocks.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Estate Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 293 cases and 30 magnums

SELECTIONS: 777, 667, Pommard, 115

ELEVAGE: 12 months in French oak, 18% new

DATE BOTTLED: December 11, 2019

ALCOHOL: 13.1%

SRP: \$60/ 750 mL, \$130/ 1.5 L

