



WILLAKENZIE ESTATE

Viticulture

At WillaKenzie Estate, we grow all of our own grapes and know from experience that what happens in the vineyard can be just as important as what happens in the winery. When we planted our first vineyard in 1992, we knew we were laying the groundwork for generations of great wines to come and have continued to treat our vines with meticulous care ever since.

VINEYARD ARCHITECTURE

Estate Vineyards- Yamhill-Carlton AVA

On the original estate in Yamhill, all of our vineyards are situated on south-facing slopes. Differences in elevation, inclination, topsoil depth, restrictive sandstone layer depth, drainage, exposure, row orientation, and microclimate all play vital parts.

Estate Vineyard- Dundee Hills AVA

At our Jory Hills Vineyard in the Dundee Hills, 25 acres of Pinot Noir are planted on gently rolling hills with vines running east to west at a density of 2400 vines per acre.

Elevation- 320ft to 750ft above sea level

Slope- from gently rounded hilltops to 45 deg. slopes

Top-Soil Depth- 8 – 30 inches deep

Exposure- South, South-East

Row-Orientation- North/South

Varietals

Here we have 127 acres planted to Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Meunier, Gamay Noir, and Chardonnay.

Pinot Noir- 93 acres

Pinot Gris- 18 acres

Pinot Blanc- 5.5 acres

Pinot Meunier- 3.6 acres

Gamay Noir- 3.2 acres

Chardonnay- 3 acres

Density

Our plantings are dense to allow for vine competition, smaller crops, reinforced flavors, and varietal character. Density ranges from 1200 to 1800 vines per acre, and 2500 to 5000 vines per acre in our experimental block.



Viticulture Cont.

VINEYARD EXPRESSION

Irrigation: A drip irrigation system is installed in all the vineyards. It is used extensively during the first few years after the vines are planted to make the plants stronger. It is used sparingly with mature vines, and only to increase the quality of the fruit during heat stress. It is always used directly after harvest, if no rain is in sight, to rebuild the carbohydrate reserves of the plant and produce more consistent buds in the following season.

Phylloxera: All our vines are planted on phylloxera resistant root stock, so that they are resistant to the phylloxera bug which destroyed the French vineyards in the last century and the California vineyards in the 1990's. A controversial decision in Oregon in 1992, it is now common practice.

Weather Station and Soil Probes: We installed a weather station and soil probes in ten different areas of the Estate. Each probe has six sensors which measure the moisture content in the ground at different depths. The data is transmitted to our computer system by radios powered by solar cells and is analyzed daily to help us understand the stress level of the vines and take appropriate action during the growing season and at harvest time.

Trellis System: All of our vines are also farmed sustainably and planted on an upright, double-guyot trellising system. Commonly used in Burgundy, this system is best for low-yielding, high-quality fruit with small clusters. If you visit our vineyards in late winter or early spring, you will see how we prune our vines so two major fruiting canes are trained into a "T" formation along trellis wires. The trellis allows us to control the leaf canopy to maximize sun and wind exposure throughout the growing season.

Yields: Our vineyard yields are managed to Burgundy grand cru levels, and crops are thinned at the time of veraison to ensure low yields and maximize flavor intensity and complexity. We choose our picking dates based on taste and maturity, not just brix levels, another reflection of our pursuit of balance in all our winegrowing and winemaking practices.

Experimental Vineyard Block: In 2006, we planted approximately 1.5 acres of Pinot Noir at 3-by-3-foot spacing (5000 vines per acre), considered high-density even by French standards. Eager to analyze the experiment's results against another variable, we planted another 1.5 acres in an adjacent parcel at 6-by-3-foot spacing (2500 vines per acre). Both vineyards are farmed biodynamically and will be compared to the adjacent Terres Basses vineyard. It will be a few more years before we harvest a significant crop and fully realize the findings of this experiment.

To find more information on WillaKenzie Estate, please visit the Trade Toolkit section of our website at: www.willakenzie.com/trade/toolkit