



2006 Benton-Lane Willamette Valley Pinot Gris

Grape Source:	Benton-Lane Estate and selected Willamette Valley vineyards
Appellation:	Willamette Valley
Sugar at Harvest:	24.1° Brix
Harvest Dates:	September 25 – October 6
Total Acidity:	5.7 grams per liter
pH:	3.41
Alcohol:	14.0 % by volume

Growing Season: The Benton-Lane estate vineyard experienced typical, wet springtime weather in 2006 leading up to bud-break in mid April. Drier and windier weather during bloom led to very efficient pollination of the grape cluster flowers. The result was an above average fruit-set. 2006 was the warmest growing season since 2003, marked by brief sweltering periods in late June and mid September. A more abundant crop-load than in recent years was uniformly ripened with little to no pressure from rot and disease. The individual grapes were large and quite juicy, with smooth tannins and moderate acidity. With the entire estate's grapes ripening all at the same time, the harvest was quite a scramble logistically but the quality of the resulting wines is extraordinary.

Vinification: The whole grape clusters were loaded directly into the press to minimize juice contact with the skins, as the skins contain bitter phenolic compounds that are detrimental to wine quality. The Pinot Gris juice was fermented in stainless steel tanks at a very cool temperature to maintain the fresh flavors and aromas of the fruit. The wine did not undergo malo-lactic fermentation so as not to overpower the delightful fresh fruit flavors. The wine was bottled early with a screw cap closure to maximize retention of these fresh flavors and crisp acidity.

The Wine: This pale straw colored Pinot Gris displays generous floral, pear, and tropical fruit aromas. On the palate, this beautifully balanced wine is initially crisp with zesty citrus and granny smith apple flavors that lead into a delightfully bright, honeysuckle and Asian-pear flavored lingering finish.

Production: 4135 cases **Suggested retail:** \$16.00 **Date of Release:** 04/01/2007

BENTON-LANE WINERY

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