



2009 BENTON-LANE ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Grape Source:	100% Estate Grown, Willamette Valley
Variety:	100% Pinot Noir – 7 clones (Pommard, Wadenswil, 777, 667, 115, 114, 113)
Sugar at Harvest:	23.2 – 25.1° Brix
Harvest Dates:	9/27/09 – 10/12/09
Total Acidity:	5.1 grams per liter
pH:	3.83
Alcohol:	13.55% by volume
Winemaker:	Chris Mazepink

Growing Season: Spring began in the 2009 growing season with ideal conditions and normal timeframes, leading to potentially high quantity yields. The long, hot summer that followed increased concerns about high alcohol and raisin-like flavors. Then, after a succinct heat spike in September, the October harvest season was cooler with even temperatures, allowing the final phase of ripening to occur gradually. The resulting wines exhibit lush flavors with round tannins that form a luxuriant texture without alcohol or acidity out of balance.

Vinification: Fermentation took place in both small 1.75-ton open fermenters and large stainless steel tanks. Fermentations in the open top fermenters were “punched-down” by hand in the traditional manner to extract color and flavor from the skins, while a technique called “pneumatage” was utilized to extract color and flavor in the larger stainless steel tanks. This technique involves injecting large bubbles of air into the tank, which rise through the fermenting wine and gently break up the thick cap of skins that forms at the top of the fermenter. This technique allows excellent extraction of color and flavor from the skins while minimizing extraction of bitter seed tannins. The wine was aged in French oak barrels for 9 months and bottled in August 2010.

The Wine: Very deep and complex aromas of Bing cherries, graham cracker pie crust, mushrooms and blackberries just leap from the glass. In the mouth blueberries, red raspberries and baked strawberries are ripe and viscous. This is a wine of tremendous depth and nuance.

Production: 19,823 cases **Suggested Retail:** \$26 **Date of Release:** April 2011

This wine is also available in 375ml bottles

Accolades: Not yet reviewed. The previous vintage of this wine was rated **91 points** from Wine & Spirits and **90 points** from both Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate and the Wine Spectator

BENTON-LANE WINERY

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