



2012 MAISON L'ENVOYÉ THE ATTACHÉ PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER :	Mike Etzel Jr.
REGION :	Willamette Valley, Oregon
VARIETALS :	Pinot Noir (Clones: Pommard/Dijon 114/115/777)
MATURATION :	10 months in 100% French oak (20% new)
ANALYSIS :	13.8% alc/vol TA: 5.3 pH: 3.8

REGION :

While Pinotphiles have keenly monitored Oregon's evolution for decades, it seems the greater wine world has just awakened to regard its temperate climate and ancient soils as a hotbed for one finicky variety. Sheltered from inclement weather by the western Coastal Range and the eastern Cascade Range, Willamette Valley blesses the vines calling it home with gentle conditions, imbuing complex flavors and spirited acidity from a long growing season. Its namesake, the Willamette River, crisscrosses an ancient volcanic and sedimentary seabed overlaid with gravel, silt, and rock. Stewarded by family vigneron with an intimate knowledge of their land, and a new generation of eager winemakers, many are tipping their hats to Burgundy's new-world counterpart.

WINEMAKING :

The Attaché is a barrel selection culled from both alluvial and volcanic vineyard sites. Together they represent a singular expression of the intensity and vibrancy that Pinot Noir can achieve when tended to with a respectful and minimalist approach. An indigenous whole berry fermentation took place employing a gentle infusion technique to extract color and depth without excessive phenolics. The wine then matured for ten months in French oak barriques, 20% of which were new.

TASTING NOTES :

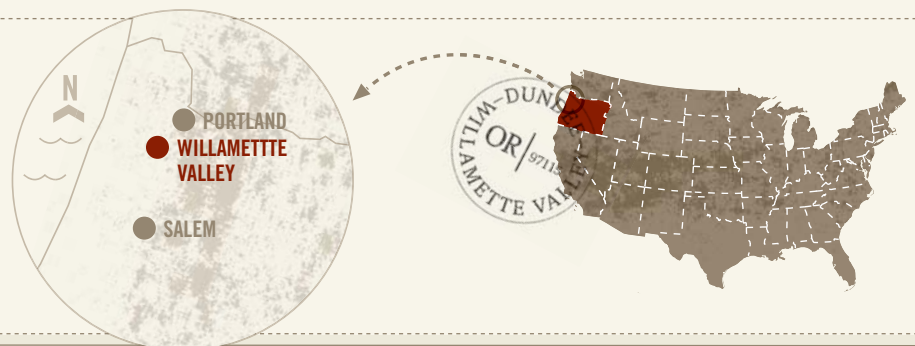
Redolent of dark cherry and mineral on the nose that follows up with brooding dark berry fruit on the palate, with hints of saffras and gravel interwoven into a lifted, silky finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

94 pts Wine Spectator, 94 pts Wine & Spirits, 92 pts International Wine Cellar

ABOUT MAISON L'ENVOYÉ :

Pursuing transcendent Pinot Noir through gilded terroir, Maison L'Envoyé has a spiritual home of Burgundy. Yet, from this tenor of focus a global fellowship emerged, with terroir-driven Pinot Noir as the linchpin. Local winemaking talent Mike Etzel, Jr. crafts complex, powerful Pinot Noirs to contrast the elegance of gravelly, red-fruited Savigny. Driven by the elusive hunt for the world's finest Pinot Noir sites, this showcase traverses the globe, presenting the many veils of regionality and winemaking style.



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