

2017 MAISON L'ENVOYÉ

TWO MESSENGERS PINOT NOIR



WINEMAKER: Louis-Michel Liger-Belair (consultant)
REGION: Willamette Valley, Oregon
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir (Clones: Pommard/114/115/777/Wadensvil/667)
MATURATION: 12 months in 100% French oak (25% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 5.6 | pH: 3.64

VINTAGE: A wet, cool spring delayed flowering until late June, setting the stage for a later harvest than the previous three years. Hot, dry conditions prevailed through the summer. A few days of rain in September refreshed the soils, slowed ripening and thickened skins, adding further complexity to the fruit. Mild, dry weather in October allowed the grapes to be picked at optimum ripeness and acidity.

AVAs & VINEYARDS: Eola Amity - Eagle Crest, Eola Springs, Popcorn. McMinnville - Hyland. Yamhill Carlton - Fairsing, Gran Moraine, Stardance. Willamette Valley - Croft

WINEMAKING: The fruit was 100% de-stemmed and underwent an indigenous ferment in two and five-ton stainless steel open top tanks. The grapes were allowed to "infuse" as whole berries at a moderate temperature, in an oxygen rich environment until pressed. The wine then matured in 100% French oak barriques (25% new) for 12 months.

TASTING NOTES: The nose is a vibrant mixture of red berries, rhubarb, vanilla essence and clove. Crunchy cranberries and vibrant purple fruits fill the palate and are complemented by a savory truffle nuance. The palate is opulent but focused and the wine feels alive throughout its impressive length. Possibly the best Two Messengers made to date.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed. 2016 vintage: 92 pts/Best Buy Wine & Spirits

ABOUT MAISON L'ENVOYÉ: Driven by a tireless hunt for elusive sites where Pinot Noir shines, Maison L'Envoyé, 'The House of the Messenger' traverses the globe with the intention of presenting the acme of regionality and winemaking styles. With winemaking footprints in Burgundy, Willamette Valley, California, Central Otago and Tasmania, they champion many unsung growers who have farmed their vineyards for decades and generations, some mere feet away from more illustriously cited neighbors. This project has been a standout since its debut in 2011 including Wine & Spirits naming Maison L'Envoyé a 'Winery To Watch' in 2015.

