

# 2017 MAISON L'ENVOYÉ

## STRAIGHT SHOOTER PINOT NOIR



**WINEMAKER:** Felipe Ramirez  
**REGION:** Willamette Valley, Oregon  
**VARIETALS:** Pinot Noir (Clones: Pommard/114/115/777/Wadensvil/667)  
**MATURATION:** 12 months in French oak barrels (10% new)  
**ANALYSIS:** 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 5.0 | pH: 3.69

**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. The fruit set was generally higher than average. Grape bunches were thinned to promote flavor intensity. 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.

**WINEMAKING:** The fruit was 80% destemmed and underwent an indigenous ferment in stainless steel open top tanks. The grapes were “infused” as whole berries and 20% as whole clusters at a moderate temperature, in an oxygen rich environment until pressed. The wine then matured in French oak barrels for 12 months, 10% of which were new.

**TASTING NOTES:** Hand-picked, unadulterated Pinot Noir from pristine vineyard blocks across Willamette Valley. The whole cluster component accentuates the intense aromatics of dark cherry and blue fruits alongside subtle earth and elegant floral notes. The palate mirrors the nose and is full of freshness with a touch of oak for texture and balance. Vibrant acidity and soft tannins support the flavors through a long, satisfying finish.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** Not yet reviewed. 2016 vintage: 91 pts/Best Buy Wine & Spirits, 90 pts Wine Spectator, 90 pts Vinous

**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, 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.

