

2018 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: 14.1% alc/vol | TA: 5.4 | pH: 3.65

VINTAGE: Spring was relatively cool and wet with bud break happening slightly later than the last few years. A warmer than average summer caught things up. Veraison was early and the hot weather continued, accelerated ripening until a cool change in September gave the grapes a needed respite. The cooler temperatures allowed the slow development of flavors until harvest. Overall 2018 is looking to be a very sound vintage.

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.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed. 2017 vintage: 92 pts Wine Spectator, 90 pts Wine & Spirits

ABOUT MAISON L'ENVOYÉ: Driven by a tireless hunt for elusive sites where Pinot Noir shines, Maison L'Envoiyé, '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'Envoiyé a 'Winery To Watch' in 2015.

