

2014 CHAPTER 24 VINEYARDS

FIRE + FLOOD "THE FLOOD" PINOT NOIR



WINEMAKER: Louis-Michel Liger-Belair and Max Marriott
REGION: Willamette Valley, Oregon
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir
MATURATION: 12 months in 100% French oak (40% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.6% alc/vol | TA: 5.9 g/L | pH: 3.53

BACKGROUND: 25 times over 2000 years, the electric blue waters of the Columbia River exploded through the ice dam of Glacial Lake Missoula unleashing cataclysmic floods that swept down the Willamette Valley to the Pacific. The Missoula Floods left behind a mix of river rock, glacial debris and rich river silt creating the layers of sedimentary soils typical of the Willamette Valley. 'The Flood' is primarily a blend of four vineyards in the Chehalem Mountains, Yamhill-Carlton, and Ribbon Ridge AVAs.

WINEMAKING: The grapes were picked in September and October, 100% de-stemmed and were fermented with wild, indigenous yeasts in 3-ton stainless steel tanks. The grapes were allowed to "infuse" as whole berries at a moderate temperature in an oxygen rich environment until being pressed in small lots in a manually controlled basket press. The Flood has been aged for 12 months in approximately 40% new French oak coming from Sequin Moreau and Francois Frères.

TASTING NOTES: A study in terrior in one word: Flood. A vibrant purple, there's a black fruit thrust to the aroma, adorned by a touch of star anise and cola. The flavors are more demonstrative - dark and blue, rippling, pure, saturating, they reach the edge of your mouth the way color reaches the edge of the glass. In its texture the wine is at its most seductive, the purity of fruit held in place by a skidding, gravelly grip.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 93 pts Vinous, 92 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT CHAPTER 24: Chapter 24 Vineyards was named after the last chapter of Homer's epic poem, The Odyssey. This particular chapter was added long after Homer died. The Greeks continued the tale to satisfy themselves despite the author thinking he was finished after Chapter 23. The mark of a great ending is not what it says about the past, but rather what it promises for the future, and Chapter 23 clearly raised more questions than it answered. In this same spirit, the story of Chapter 24's wines continues well past the cellar door. Winemaking is just the beginning of the story. The wine may be finished but it is not the end.

