

2020 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)
ALCOHOL: 13.9% alc/vol

VINTAGE: Yields for most varieties from Oregon, including Pinot Noir, were down in 2020. Wide temperature swings and wet conditions in May and June contributed to a light fruit set. A warm summer continued through September until wildfires hit the west coast. While fires were widespread, smoke characteristics in wines from the 2020 vintage are highly variable and site-specific. Even though the quantity of grapes harvested was lower, the quality of fruit that was picked has been outstanding. Smaller clusters and berries gave great color and concentrated flavors at desired sugar levels with good 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: Floral notes of dried rose petals and fresh picked red fruits play with touches of cinnamon and nutmeg on the nose. Generous flavors of red cherry and raspberry swirl with subtle notes of vanilla. This wine graces the entire palate with smoothly textured tannins and ends with a spiced, pleasant finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 2020 vintage not yet rated. 2019: 89 pts Wine Spectator, 88 pts Wine Enthusiast

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.

