



Goosepen Block Estate Pinot Noir

2016

Our story began in 1971 when our parents, Susan Sokol and Bill Blosser, first planted vines in Oregon's Dundee Hills. As second generation winegrowers, we are passionately committed to our family's legacy of creating world-class wines, through sustainable methods, which express our distinctive hillside vineyards.

—Alex & Alison Sokol Blosser

VINTAGE HIGHLIGHTS

In our 45th growing year at Sokol Blosser we saw something very special: our earliest bloom on record. The warm weather in April and May progressed the vine growth enough to push up bloom. You can just about set your clock from the time of bloom to the first day of harvest... 100 days. When we had bloom on May 20 (mid-June is more typical for the start of bloom) we could see that August 28 would be the start of harvest. An August start date is not scary, it is what mother nature gives you. It was not an especially dry year as we received our typical heavy rains during the winter of 2015/2016, and had some wet weather during our early bloom in May/June which ended up destroying a lot of the clusters. The destruction of some of the crop during flowering was a good thing as mother nature has been giving us big crops for the past few years and getting a more normal crop load (2-3 tons an acre) was welcomed. After the rain, during bloom, we had a dry summer with heat spikes at the end of July and August. We were very happy with the fruit knowing it would be a quality vintage.

WINEMAKING

Due to the warm vintage of 2016, Goosepen block was brought in a week before labor day on August 29th! Very early for this block. The grapes were carefully hand harvested and de-stemmed into one 3 ton stainless steel open top fermenter, inoculated with our Estate native yeast, and one 2.5 ton oak upright fermenter inoculated with an isolated yeast strain known for clean low temperature fermentations. They were punched down twice daily at the peak of the fermentation curve. Both were about 10 days long and the two tanks were drained and pressed together following primary fermentation. Ten 100% French oak barrels were hand selected for the final blend, 20% of which were new oak barrels.

WINE PROFILE

Our 2016 Goosepen Block Estate Pinot Noir exhibits aromas of sweet strawberry with hints of black pepper. There are strong flavors of cigar box, strawberry and cranberry, with ripe tannins. The finish is highlighted by toasted oak and bright acidity.

PAIRINGS

Serve with appetizers such as bacon stuffed mushrooms followed by hearty meats like beef tenderloin with roasted baby potatoes. Brie, Camembert and Gruyère cheeses pair magnificently.

THE STORY

When Alex Sokol Blosser (our winemaker) was growing up, this block was not planted to pinot noir, but to riesling. During this time Bill and Susan Sokol Blosser tried their infamous and failed experiment of fencing it in and releasing a flock of geese to consume the grass. Since then, the Sokol Blosser's have always called it "Goosepen." When we had to re-plant the block due to Phylloxera, it was decided that the highest and best use of that site was for pinot noir and not for riesling. This was not a failed experiment. To this day, Goosepen is Alex's favorite of our single vineyard blocks. It does not have the rich tannins of its northern neighbor, Big Tree, nor the finesse of the Orchard Block. It has fruit. A lot of rich fruit that can be heavy some years (2014) and complex in other years (2012 and 2015). Drinking a glass of Goosepen always reminds Alex that experimenting is a two edge sword; sometimes you get the goose, and sometimes the goose gets you!



APPELLATION

100% Dundee Hills AVA

BLEND COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir | 100% Estate Grown

CLONES

Pommard UCD4

AGE OF VINES

Replanted in 1998

BOTTLED

March 2018

BRIX AT HARVEST

22.3°

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

13.5%

PROPER CELLAR LIFESPAN

10 - 15 Years

PRODUCTION

250 Cases

CERTIFICATIONS

Made with 100% certified organic grapes

SUGGESTED RETAIL

\$80