



# Sokol Blosser

DUNDEE HILLS, OREGON

*Est. 1971*

## 2012 Big Tree Block Pinot Noir

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**VINTAGE:** 2012

**APPELLATION:** 100% Dundee Hills AVA

**CERTIFICATIONS:** Made with 100% organic grapes | Oregon Department of Agriculture Organic Certified Wine

**GRAPE VARIETIES USED:** 100% Pinot Noir | 100% Estate Grown

**DATE GRAPES PICKED:** 10/1/12-10/2/12

**AGE OF VINES:** 12-14 years old

**LENGTH OF FERMENTATION:** ~12 days

**TYPE OF FERMENTATION:** Three-ton open top fermenters | Punched down up to 3 times per day

**LENGTH OF SKIN CONTACT:** Post-fermentation maceration ~15 days | Total time in fermenter- 27 days

**FERMENTATION TEMPERATURE:** Peak temperature ~75° F

**ALCOHOL:** 14.5%

**LENGTH AND TYPE OF AGING:** 100% barrel-aged in French oak | 17 months in barrels | 42% new barrels

**DATE BOTTLED:** April 2014

**BOTTLE AGING PRIOR TO RELEASE:** ~11 months

**LIFESPAN IN A PROPER CELLAR:** ~10-15 years

**NUMBER OF CASES PRODUCED:** ~300 cases

**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** \$70

**VINEYARD SUMMARY:** This block was replanted in 2 sections during 1998 & 2000 and covers 5.27 acres. Elevation is at 500-450ft. Jory soil. Clones 115, 777 and Pommard.

**VINTAGE SUMMARY:** "This was a great vintage. Period. I will most likely never see another vintage like this in my life time." – Winemaker Alex Sokol Blosser. The driest summer on record, made for clean fruit – possibly the cleanest ever seen in our vineyard. Growing and harvest conditions were optimal and near-perfect; the drying east winds in early October did force us to pick sooner than anticipated due to the grape drying. Color, intensity, and flavor will be the hallmarks from the vintage. January, February, and March produced significant rainfall, more than six inches above average. Winter was cool as well, with two inches of snow in January and a trace in March. April, May and June continued the cool and above average rainfall (more than four inches above normal). With so much rain, we had to wait to get the tractors into the field. Bud break started on April 23rd – right on time. Bloom started June 17th which is again right on time. The wet weather at bloom helped thin the crop. It rained July 3rd and then ceased until October 12th. That means we had no rain in August and September in the Sokol Blosser vineyard. Harvest was compact. We started picking the Concert North Pinot Noir on September 29th and finished up with Pinot Blanc and Red House Riesling on October 11th. These wines will taste delicious the moment they are released and still have long-term aging potential.

**WINEMAKER NOTES:** Our single block program showcases the variation and nuanced expressions of the different vineyards on our estate. All fruit for this program is grown in the Jory soils of the Dundee Hills. The grapes are harvested when the phenolic, sugar and acid strike the right balance, with our main focus on the flavor development. Once the grapes make it into the winery, they are all treated the same, which gives each vineyard block the opportunity to fully express its own unique characteristics. After aging, each barrel is tasted and hand selected by Winemaker Alex Sokol Blosser to be in the program. Our single block wines are made for lengthy aging.

Our 2012 Big Tree Block Pinot Noir shows lovely maturity and balance as its fruit-forward characteristics reflect the vintage. This wine will continue to age and mature into an elegant Pinot Noir. In the nose, there are aromas of fresh blueberries, tart pie cherries, fresh nutmeg, coriander, and white pepper. The characteristic earthiness of Big Tree Block is coming across as forest floor and wet leaves. Additionally, the wine features dense, dark red fruit and round tannins followed by notes of orange peel and a long, persistent finish. This wine, and our 2012 vintage Pinot Noirs in general, are worthy of lengthy aging, and with proper cellaring can be enjoyed for the next ten to fifteen years.