



## Watershed Block Estate Pinot Noir

2019

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

It was clear something was different with the 2019 harvest when fruit flies were spotted at Thistle Vineyard over Labor Day Weekend. The second sign was the dramatic shift in the weather forecast. At the end of August, we believed we would have a “warmer and drier” than average September/October. Sounds good huh?!?! Then, at the end of September we got 2.7” of rain... which is double the average, and we had one of the coolest Septembers on record. We remembered and applied the key learnings from prior similar vintages in our approach to the 2019 harvest – get the grapes as ripe as possible with as little fruit degradation as possible. Even with a longer hang time this year the grapes had less sugar, high pHs and high acids. Consequently, we based our picking decision more on the taste of the juice and looking at the weather. We had 5 distinct rain events from when we started harvest on September 3 to when we ended picking on October 10th, and these individual rain events sometimes lasted multiple days. In the end, we got as much ripeness as possible and are very happy about what we put into barrel.

### WINEMAKING

The fruit for this wine was farmed organically on our estate, and was hand harvested at peak ripeness on September 26th and 28th. The picked fruit was destemmed and sent straight to fermentation with a combination of commercial yeast and our house native yeast cultivated from our vineyards. During it's ~21 day fermentation, cap management was performed with strictly punch downs of the 3 ton fermenters, it was a cool vintage resulting in long, cool fermentations. Once the fermentation process was finished, the wine was pressed of the skins at dryness and barreled down in 100% French oak barrels with 24% new oak, and left to age for 16 months before bottling.

### WINE PROFILE

On the nose, this wine expresses wet forest floor and mushrooms, complemented by prune, dried cherry and cinnamon. On the palate, the nose largely carries through, though it is joined by nutmeg and tobacco.

### PAIRINGS

This wine will pair beautifully with boeuf bourguignon or lamb tagine.

### SCORES

92 points James Suckling

### THE STORY

The Watershed Block Pinot Noir comes from fruit harvested off of a section of the vineyard planted by founders Bill and Susan Sokol Blosser in the early 70s. Although replanted in 2006/2009 on rootstock, cuttings from fruiting vines were taken from the original plantings and grafted onto rootstock for the replant.



#### APPELLATION

100% Dundee Hills AVA

#### BLEND COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir | 100% Estate Grown

#### CLONES

Wädenswil 2A & Pommard UCD4

#### AGE OF VINES

Replanted in 2006 & 2009

#### BOTTLED

April 2021

#### BRIX AT HARVEST

22.5°

#### ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

13%

#### PROPER CELLAR LIFESPAN

10 -15 Years

#### PRODUCTION

345 Cases

#### SUGGESTED RETAIL

\$72