

Belle Pente

United States - Oregon - Carlton / Willamette Valley



Ownership/Founders Brian & Jill O'Donnell

Start of Activity 1994

Vitiviniculture Organic

Hectares 7,3

Bottles produced 58.000

PINOT NOIR ESTATE RESERVE YAMHILL-CARLTON

100% Pinot Noir

Production area: Dundee hills

Terrain: terreno limoso

Harvest: manual

Vinification: No whole clusters were used, and fermentation was conducted with selected yeasts in the cellar and in the vineyard

Refinement: 18 months in French oak barrels (56% new) before gravity bottling, and stored for another 18 months in bottle before marketing

Color: light ruby red

Fragrance: Concentrated, dark fruit aromas with notes of fresh herbs and flowers

Flavor: concentrated and agile at the same time, it conveys superb energy and closes on its juicy flavors of raspberry, cherry and spice cake

Alcoholic Grade: 14% vol



Belle Pente was founded in 1994 by Jill and Brian O'Donnell who, after meeting in California, moved to the Willamette Valley. Both were award-winning home-brewers, although Brian had started making wine for family and friends as early as 1986. On the night of the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, they decided to leave their careers in Silicon Valley to pursue their wine dream. Organic and biodynamic viticulture, vineyards with south, south-east and south-west exposures. 16 acres planted on the property, including 12 acres of Pinot Noir and 2 each of Pinot Gris and Chardonnay, plus nearly half an acre of Gamay Noir. Bellepente's shallow soils are recognised for their ability to produce exceptional wines of great power and finesse. In the cellar, the processing philosophy reflects the inspiration from 'old world' winemaking traditions: great wine is born in the vineyard and is simply respected in the cellar. The grapes are harvested by hand and meticulously selected on arrival at the winery. The three-tier, gravity-flow structure is designed for gentle, natural vinification in small batches, with minimal manipulation, to preserve the varietal integrity and unique attributes of the time and place in which the wines were grown. All this makes Belle Pente one of the best interpreters of winemaking in Oregon and the United States.