

Benmar

2023 Alpine Lakes Pinot Noir Dundee Hills, Willamette Valley

96/100 Decanter

“...exudes freshness and clarity reminiscent of the Alpine lake depicted on its label. Juicy pomegranate seeds, cherry-raspberry leather, and sandalwood dominate the medium-bodied palate, framed by superfine tannins and a clean acid cut. Subtle hints of pine forest and cacao bean emerge on the long, elegant finish.”

Inspired by the breathtaking beauty and challenge of the Enchantments, a hike undertaken by our wives in the Pacific Northwest, this Pinot Noir captures the essence of adventure and exploration. The photo on the label, taken by my wife Jen, reflects the spirit of this remarkable wine. This is where Alpine Lakes was born.

Vineyard

This Pinot Noir benefits from the region's ideal growing conditions and is sourced from a meticulously tended vineyard nestled in the heart of the Dundee Hills AVA. One of the most prominent AVAs in the region. The well-draining soils, marine influence, and cool climate nights all contribute to the development of intense flavors and elegant structure in the grapes. The vineyard is farmed with 100 percent organic methods.

Winemaking

Harvested at peak ripeness, the grapes were carefully destemmed and underwent a gentle cold soak to extract vibrant color and aromas. Fermentation occurred in small, temperature-controlled tanks, allowing for the full expression of the fruit character. The wine was then aged in 40% new French oak barrels, where it matured for 15 months, developing additional complexity and texture.

Tasting Notes

Aroma

A captivating bouquet of dark fruit (black cherry, plum) and ripe berries (raspberry, boysenberry) mingles with enticing hints of forest floor, damp earth, and subtle floral notes.

Palate

On the entry, the wine is met with a burst of juicy red fruit flavors, complemented by elegant tannins and mouthwatering acidity. The mid-palate reveals nuances of dark chocolate, baking spice, and a touch of minerality. The finish is long and lingering, leaving a lasting impression of elegance and complexity.

