

# *Brittan Vineyards*

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## 2014 GESTALT BLOCK PINOT NOIR

Winemaker Robert Brittan, a wine industry veteran with over 40 harvests under his belt, has always had a passion for Pinot Noir; a love affair that began in the 80's when he made several vintages under his Britt Hill label. In 2004, Robert decided to leave Stags' Leap Winery in Napa and start a Pinot Noir project in the cool climate of the Northern Willamette Valley.

### VINEYARD NOTES

The Brittan Vineyard lies just 12 miles southwest of McMinnville, tucked into the foothills of the Coastal Range. The original 18 acres were planted in 2001, but due to the challenging nature of this site and limited topsoil, only eight acres survived. Since 2004 when Robert and Ellen purchased the vineyard, it has been an ongoing rehabilitation project: replanting, retraining, and learning the unique landscape that has become Brittan Vineyard. The Gestalt Block Pinot noir comes from the part of the vineyard that is more southwest facing and atop younger, more compact intrusion basalts. It takes the brunt of the wind that blows across the vineyard, resulting in a wine with structure and fine acidity.

### VINTAGE NOTES

Winter in 2014 was non-existent, resulting in an earlier than normal bud break. Ideal conditions during bloom led to a large fruit set for the Willamette Valley. Luckily, the weather during the season cooperated and the vines could handle a slightly larger crop load, which for the Brittan Vineyard, meant about two tons per acre. The mornings were quick to heat up and the nights slow to cool down. It is quite rare to have a vintage with both quality and quantity, but 2014 turned out to be exactly that. These rich wines show the finesse, restraint and buoyancy of great winemaking in a great year.

### TASTING NOTES

The rich, opulent color reveals Italian plum and lavender with hits of black licorice, charcuterie and sage. The palate is supple with black raspberry and cedar.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 370 cases

SELECTIONS: 115, 667, 777

ELEVAGE: 12 months, 35% new French oak

DATE BOTTLED: December 2015

ALCOHOL: 14.2%

SRP: \$60/750 mL

