

# *Brittan Vineyards*

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## 2014 BASALT 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 with fruit from Carneros. In 2004, Robert decided to leave Stags' Leap Winery in Napa and start a Pinot noir project in the cool climate of the North 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 Basalt Block Pinot noir is sourced from the section of the vineyard that has the heaviest concentration of broken sub-marine basalts, resulting in low yielding vines that produce intensely flavored wine.

### 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 2014 Basalt Block shows the density of a warm year, but with more finesse bounding across the palate from this windy vineyard site. The nose is heavy with aromas of red fruits, exotic cardamom, and Asian five-spice. It has a thread of pure fruit that flows from the front to the back of the palate.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 1451 cases

SELECTIONS: Pommard, 115, 667, 777, Swan

ELEVAGE: 12 months, 25% new French oak

DATE BOTTLED: December 2015

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

SRP: \$48/750 mL

