

# *Brittan Vineyards*

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## 2013 PUNCHEON PINOT NOIR

Winemaker Robert Brittan, a wine industry veteran with over 40 harvest 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.

### **VINTAGE NOTES**

The 2013 vintage in the Willamette Valley was warm and dry during the summer, then cooled off dramatically in September before the heavy rains at harvest. The Puncheon Pinot Noir was produced from hand-selected blocks from Brittan Vineyard, picked in late September and early October, with yields of just 1.5 tons per acre. It was then fermented in a 400-liter double French oak barrel (known as a puncheon). Unlike the previous two vintages, the 2013 was 100% de-stemmed.

### **TASTING NOTES**

Swirl the glass to release the perfumed aroma of cherry blossoms, cassis, and dark Amarena cherry. This masculine-style Pinot noir broadens onto the palate to unfold savory notes of soy, smoky tobacco leaf, dried sage, black raspberry, black tea, and cracked black peppercorns. The wine finishes long and supple, with an undercurrent of spiciness.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 32 cases

SELECTIONS: Swan, Pommard, 115, 777, 667

ELEVAGE: 12 months, French oak puncheon

DATE BOTTLED: December 2014

ALCOHOL: 13.2%

