

Brittan Vineyards

2016 BASALT BLOCK PINOT NOIR

Winemaker Robert Brittan, a wine industry veteran with 45 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.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2016 vintage was one of the earliest in Oregon history. A warm winter and spring led to early budbreak, earlier bloom, veraison, and harvest. A brief period of heat during flowering resulted in a smaller than normal fruit set, with smaller clusters and berries. Unlike the previous warm vintages, the summer temperatures were milder, which yielded perfectly ripe, intense, and concentrated fruit.

TASTING NOTES

Intense, rich, balanced acidity. On the nose, red fruits and anise intertwine with savory notes of bay and tarragon. In the palate, rich red plum and marionberry characteristics are supported by great structure and brilliant acidity typical of the McMinnville AVA. The finish is remarkably long and builds, showcasing great aging potential.

AVA: McMinnville

VINEYARD: Brittan Vineyard

CASES PRODUCED: 990 cases

SELECTIONS: Pommard, 115, 667, 777, Swan

ELEVAGE: 12 months, 27% new French oak

DATE BOTTLED: December 2017

ALCOHOL: 14.4%

SRP: \$48/ 750 mL

