

2016 "Côte Est" Pinot Noir



Production: 183 cases (8 barrels)

Winemaker: Steve Ryan

AVA: Chehalem Mountains AVA, Willamette Valley

Vineyard blocks: Cuvee from the cooler Eastern-facing blocks

Clones: Dijon 667, Dijon 115, Dijon 114, Pommard

Barrel aging: 11 months, French oak

Alcohol: 14.1%

Production Notes – The Côte Est cuvee is sourced from three Eastern-facing blocks of our estate in the Chehalem Mountains AVA, planted with primarily Dijon clones 114, 115, and 667, receiving less sunlight exposure than anywhere else on the vineyard. The naturally cooler temperature and Nekia soils (part of the Jory family) provide a layered complexity, darker-fruit character, and naturally bright acidity. Since its inception in 2004, this cuvee has shown the delicate balance between dark fruit, earthiness, and structure.

After gaining his degree in soil science from University of Minnesota, winemaker Steve Ryan had the privilege of working as head winemaker of Martinelli in the mid-90s. While recently running the custom crush facility Rack & Riddle in Healdsburg, he focused on biodynamic research in Hopland, CA while making small-production cuvees from California and Oregon, including the highly regarded Le Cadeau "Côte Est" since 2007. Now settled into a home in the North Willamette Valley, Steve's production is being crafted entirely out of Oregon beginning with the 2014 vintage.

94 pts. | **Wine Spectator** – Silky, expressive and showing effortless complexity, with raspberry, orange zest and spiced cinnamon flavors that take on richness and depth on a lingering finish. Drink now through 2024. –*TF*