

Good Evening! **Tomorrow night is a very exciting wine tasting!** It's all about Pinot Noir, Quality and Oregon! We have several spectacular AVA's in Oregon and Dundee is one of them. Next time we will focus on Eola Hills AVA our back yard! Anyway, it was very difficult to decide which ones to pour with so many excellent choices!

I welcome your feedback and if you have wineries that you would like to have featured please tell me! I love your feedback! It really helps me. You know, planning wine tastings are usually fueled by your recommendations and interests! If you would like to read more about Dundee Hills AVA please read below the wines. Bring your friends, your neighbors, your children! This tasting will be popular so come early!

- **Price: Full Pour \$25 all six wines and 2 oz pours, 1/2 Pour \$15**
- **When: Friday, January 13th (Happy Birthday Jess!!!)**
- **Time: 4-7 PM**
- **Jesse highly recommends my Homemade Minestrone Soup with Italian Sausage! We also have a Vegetarian Minestrone... yum! This soup will warm your bones!**

THE WINES:

2008 Winters Hill Dundee Hills Pinot Noir \$28.50

Vivid red. An intensely perfumed bouquet displays scents of raspberry preserves, potpourri and incense, with an exotic spicy overlay. Silky and sweet, offering spicy red berry flavors and a palate-numbing lashing of white pepper. Juicy and precise on the finish, which leaves red fruit and floral notes behind. This is flat-out delicious. 90 Points Stephen Tanzer

2009 Belle Pente Murto Vineyard Dundee Hills Pinot Noir \$35. 2008 Review

"Bright ruby-red. Intense red berry and Asian spice aromas, with a sexy potpourri quality and a hint of woodsmoke. Deeply pitched red and dark berry flavors show impressive energy and lift, picking up notes of star anise and cinnamon on the back half. Packs a punch but comes off as lithe, with very good finishing clarity and spicy persistence. Drinkable now but balanced to age" Stephen Tanzer 92 Points

2008 Siltstone Guadalupe Vineyard Dundee Hills \$30.

The 2008 Pinot Noir Guadalupe Vineyard is medium ruby red with a fragrant bouquet of smoke, exotic spices, incense, cherry blossom, strawberry, and raspberry that jumps from the glass. Elegant on the palate with intense red fruit flavors, plenty of ripe tannin, and outstanding depth and concentration, it will continue to blossom for another 3-4 years and provide a drinking window extending from 2013 to 2023. At the asking price it is an outstanding value. 92 Points Robert Parker

2009 J. Christopher Dundee Hills \$35.

The 2009 Pinot Noir Dundee Hills Cuvee emits a bouquet of fragrant red fruits. Intense, elegant, and succulent, it is a prototype of what could optimally be achieved in this vintage. **94 Points Robert Parker** J. Christopher Wines (the winery of guitar aficionado Jay Somers) has not been reviewed in these pages since the 2001 vintage. Given the quality of this collection of wines, he must have been in hibernation or taking lessons from the elusive John Thomas. Better late than never! The following wines generally are aged for 16-20 months in 25% new French oak.

2009 White Rose White Rose Estate Dundee Hills Pinot noir \$42.

The 2009 Pinot Noir White Rose Vineyard is a selection from the four oldest blocks in the vineyard planted in 1980 and was made with 60% whole clusters. The wine was aged for 15 months in 8% new French oak. Medium ruby red in color, it sports an enticing nose of exotic spices, incense, cedar, rose petal, cherry, and raspberry. In the glass it opens to reveal exceptional elegance, excellent concentration, and impeccable balance. It is likely to provide enjoyment for another 8-10 years. **93 Robert Parker** White Rose Estate's proprietor, Greg Sanders, loves whole cluster Pinot Noir and his 2008s were brilliant successes. He informed me during our sit-down that beginning in 2011 all of the

wines produced from the estate White Rose Vineyard will be made with 100% whole clusters. Regarding the 2009s, he says, "There are wines here that I like better than the 2008s" and I have to agree with him.

2009 Arterberry Maresh Dundee Pinot Noir \$50

The 2009 Pinot Noir Maresh Vineyard was sourced from a vineyard planted originally in 1970 with two later additions. Yields in 2009 were less than 2 tons per acre and Maresh was able to keep the wine's alcohol at 13.0%, unusually low for the vintage and the AVA. The wine spent 14 months in barrel, only 10-15% new, and was bottled without fining or filtration. The youthful Jim Maresh calls 1999, "a winemaker's vintage" and said his goals were "to achieve succulence and seamlessness". With the advantage of old vines and low yields, Maresh was able to succeed. The wine offers up a captivating nose of exotic spices, incense, rose petal, black cherry, and black raspberry. Dense and sweetly-fruited, it displays a velvety texture, unusual depth and concentration for the vintage as well as a sense of elegance. This beautifully proportioned effort will evolve for 1-2 years and drink well through 2021+. It is one of the stars of the vintage. **94 Points Robert Parker**

The Heart And Soil Of Oregon Wines

Home to Oregon's earliest Pinot noir growing history, it is also fast becoming a fine-wine destination reminiscent of Burgundy, France. No longer just a day visit from Portland, visitors come from around the world to view our stunning panorama of vineyards, sample our acclaimed wines in our tasting rooms, stay at our gracious lodging accommodations, and dine at some of the finest restaurants the Northwest has to offer.

Located just 28 miles southwest of Portland, and 40 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, the Dundee Hills appellation is situated within an irregular circle of about 6,490 acres in total, of which more than 1,264 acres of vineyards are planted. This region is unique for its higher elevation, warmer nighttime temperatures, less low-elevation fog and frost, and lava-based Jory soil series of reddish silt, clay and loam soils. The red hills showcase some of the most spectacular views of the northern Willamette Valley and beyond, with the Chehalem Mountains to the north, the Cascade Mountains, including the breathtaking snow-peaked Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson to the east, and the Coastal Range to the west.

In Dundee, Pinot noir is king. Our wines are made with terroir in mind, showcasing equivalent pedigree as the finest Burgundies in France. We also offer an exceptional selection of other cool-climate varieties like Chardonnay, Pinot gris and Pinot blanc. With a wonderful diversity of wineries ranging from the rustic and state-of-the-art to grand Domaines, the Dundee Hills offers some of the most extraordinary, elegant and sought-after Pinot noir in the world. We cordially invite you to come and taste for yourself. Dundee Hills. But will you be able to taste the differences between a Dundee Hills grown Pinot Noir and one from Yamhill-Carlton? Maybe, maybe not. But you can have fun trying! And if you happen to taste some black cherry fruit and earthy, spicy flavors, then you are on to what we think makes Dundee Hills Pinot Noirs special.

Dundee Hills Vineyards: Then And Now

The total acreage is approximately 6,490 acres following the 200 ft contour line. Approximately 2,000 acres (4/06) is planted. Dundee Hills has 9 varieties of wine to choose from: Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, White Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Meunier, Melon, Muscat Ottonel and Muller Thurgau. The very first vines were planted by David and Diana Lett in 1965. Today there are 29 vineyards and wineries comprising about 1,500 acres of vineyards and 55,000 cases of Dundee Hills wines.

Characteristics Of Dundee Hills Wines

The aromas range from red fruited to a floral, especially violet as well as mineral which has a gravelly scent. The flavors range even moreso. First you have red fruit of raspberry to cherry to black cherry;

spice-rosemary to delicate lavender; floral-rose petal to violet; juicy textured; but overall elegant.

What Is An Appellation?

In order to regulate the authenticity of their finest wines, the French developed the appellation system. Appellation applies specifically to the region where the grapes were grown. Some regions also regulate what grapes can be grown where; what winemaking methods can be used; how large the yields can be; etc. Most winegrowing nations have adopted their own versions of controlled appellations to authenticate quality and consistency of their wines.

Why Make Dundee Hills An Appellation?

Wine labels can be very confusing, even for those of us who have made the wine business a career. So how important is the place where the grapes were grown? Well, it depends. If you are not versed in Oregon wine geography, here's a quick lesson on where the Dundee Hills are located. If you were standing on the moon looking at planet Earth through a telescope in an attempt to find the red hills of Dundee, you would narrow your focus in this order: Earth, North America, United States, Oregon, Willamette Valley, Dundee Hills, and then our 1,264 acres of vineyards. The Dundee Hills is the most densely planted wine area in the Willamette Valley. And for a good reason. The Pinot grape varieties thrive here. We believe that this area produces wines that are distinctive in aroma and flavor. This is in part due to the unique combination of soil, slope, elevation, temperature, and south to east exposure found here in the Dundee Hills. But will you be able to taste the differences between a Dundee Hills grown Pinot Noir and one from Yamhill-Carlton? Maybe, maybe not. But you can have fun trying! And if you happen to taste some black cherry fruit and earthy, spicy flavors, then you are on to what we think makes Dundee Hills Pinot Noirs special.

Thank you,

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