

Good Day!

Wow, I feel like I live in a ghost town! Really quiet around here. No traffic on Commercial and that is rare! Maybe it is because it was beautiful out today! Full on sunshine!! Anyway, If you get this message we are having a wine tasting Friday night! The wines are all from the fabulous Willakenzie Estate!

"Willakenzie Estate is located in Oregon's Willamette Valley on rolling hillsides in the Chehalem Mountains. The winery was named after the Willakenzie soil on which the vineyards are planted to convey the influence that the soil imparts on the wine's flavors and aromas. The vineyards are planted with grapes of the Pinot family, mostly new Dijon clones of Pinot Noir as well as Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc from Alsace. These cool climate grapes are particularly well adapted to the Northern Willamette Valley." The Winery

"Willakenzie Estate believes in giving their Pinot Noirs an extra year of bottle age prior to release so their current vintage is 2007. This is likely to prove a wise decision because the 2007s I tasted on this trip had generally gained weight with a year in bottle. This is a fine set of wines from a challenging vintage. In addition, for the first time, Willakenzie has made a blend from all of their estate vineyards, held it back for an extra year, and labeled it Reserve." Robert Parker

**When: Friday, January 28th**

**Where: Santiam Wine Company**

**Time: 4-7 P.M.**

**Cost: \$27 Full pour**

**1/2 pour: \$15 (1 oz. pour of each)**

**What to bring? Your Friends and/or Family**

#### **The Wines:**

##### **2009 Willakenzie Estate Pinot Blanc \$21.**

Lively, silky and refreshing for its pear, citrus and green almond flavors, dancing brightly through the finish. Drink now 90 Points Wine Spectator. The 2009 Pinot Blanc opens with aromas of exotic fruits, including grapefruit, gooseberry, guava and pineapple, along with perfumed honeysuckle, jasmine and orange blossom, with a hint of lemongrass. On the palate, this wine has flavors of honeydew, juicy grapefruit, green apple and stone fruits, marked with an initial richness and a hint of sweetness that evolves into a bright, fresh acidity. Enjoy this wine by itself as an aperitif, or pair it with raw sushi, shellfish, Thai Food, and pasta primavera. It is ready to drink now, but has the complexity to hold in the cellar for an additional 2 or 3 years. Serve well chilled.

##### **2009 Willakenzie Estate Pinot Noir \$27.**

**Just released! The 2008 was in the New York Times Pick on January 18th \*\*\***

##### **2007 Willakenzie Estate Pierre Leon Pinot Noir \$33.**

The 2007 Pinot Noir Pierre Leon Estate spent 14 months in 50% new oak and is made up of mainly of Dijon clones. Rounder, riper, and weightier than the preceding wines, it displays lots of spice on both the nose and palate, cherry and raspberry flavors, and a sense of elegance. This nicely balanced, lengthy effort will offer prime drinking from 2012 to 2019. 91 Points Robert Parker

##### **2007 Willakenzie Estate Emery \$35.**

The 2007 Pinot Noir Emery Estate was aged in 60% new oak. It is light ruby in color with herbal, sage, pine, smoke, and spicy red fruits notes. On the palate it reveals a bit of tannin, savory flavors, a silky texture, and good balance. It will provide considerable pleasure through 2019. 90 Robert Parker

**2007 Willakenzie Terres Basses \$57.**

The 2007 Pinot Noir Terres Basses Estate was aged in 50% new oak. Smoke, earth, mineral, and savory, spicy red fruit aromas lead to a wine with the most density and structure of the 2007 collection. Ripe, balanced, and light on its feet, this spicy, flavorful, already complex Pinot will evolve for 2-3 years and deliver pleasure from 2012 to 2022. 92 Points Robert Parker

**2007 Willakenzie Triple Black Slopes \$57.**

The 2007 Pinot Noir Triple Black Slopes Estate is dark ruby red with spicy, herbal, mineral, and red fruit-accented aromas. This leads to a medium-bodied, concentrated effort with layers of fruit unusual in this vintage. With outstanding balance and length, it will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and offer a drinking window extending from 2012 to 2022. 91 Points Robert Parker

**Sneak Peek:**

**2008 Willakenzie Triple Black Slopes (not yet released) Future available for order!**

**Saturday: 12-4 P.M. Four Graces Winery Pinot Gris and 2008 Et Fille Pinot Noir this wine was listed in the New York Times \*\*\***

**If I run out you can order!**

**The Cheap & Cheerful Six-pack for February will be ready to purchase on Saturday!**

**Thanks for reading!**

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