



PASSION. PATIENCE. PLACE.



Truly memorable wines begin with passion, develop with patience, and reward your palate with a fully realized expression of their unique place in the world.

APPASSIONATA ESTATE began as a passion project for the renowned German winemaker Ernst “Erni” Loosen. Erni’s lifelong love for exploring the world’s great Pinot Noirs drew him to Oregon nearly three decades ago. Over many visits, collecting wines and friends along the way, he realized that something special was going on in the Willamette Valley and began to dream of making wine here himself.

Never one to merely dream, Erni launched a small, collaborative project with J. Christopher Wines in 2005, bottling a very limited, highly selected Pinot Noir that he named Appassionata. A few vintages later, he put down roots in Oregon, purchasing 40 acres in the Chehalem Mountains, planting the Appassionata Vineyard, and building the winery. His long-term vision was to establish an enduring family wine estate, dedicated to growing and producing exquisitely expressive wines with extraordinary ageability. It has been nearly two decades in the making, but that vision is now being fully realized.

WINES FOR THE AGES

For Erni, the real character and complexity of a truly great wine don’t emerge until it has developed maturity, which can only happen through time and cannot be rushed. Given time — in the barrel and in the bottle — a fine wine will clearly reveal the unique nature of its terroir, as well as the signature of its vintage. This is what we strive for at Appassionata Estate: wines that vividly express their origins, and that have the depth, structure and complexity to reward long-term cellar aging.

To achieve that, we grow fruit of exceptional quality and practice unhurried winemaking, allowing the wines to unfold at their own tempo. Then we hold them for up to 10 years before release, giving them time to emerge in full harmony. When you acquire a bottle of Appassionata wine, it will be just entering the peak of its development — ready to drink now, and with many vital years ahead of it.

VINEYARDS

Rooted in the volcanically formed, flood-washed hills of Oregon’s Willamette Valley, Appassionata Vineyards is dedicated to honoring and expressing the soil, spirit and substance of this very special place. Our wines celebrate the unique geology and climate that make this region so highly prized by wine lovers and collectors the world over.

Situated on a gentle knoll, with spectacular views of the Chehalem Mountain ridgeline to the north and the Dundee Hills to the south, our vineyards benefit from an extraordinary diversity of site exposures and soil types, both volcanic and alluvial. After more than a decade of über-meticulous, German-style farming to establish the vineyards, our goal is to transpose their distinctive nature from the soil to the bottle.

The Appassionata Estate vineyard comprises 17 acres of Pinot Noir, two acres of Chardonnay, and one acre of Sauvignon Blanc. Planting began in 2010 and proceeded, block by block, over four years. Vines also need time and patience to establish their roots and develop depth of expression. So it is only now, a decade later, that the estate fruit is primarily dedicated to the production of Appassionata wines.

WINERY

The Appassionata Estate winery is nestled into the north-facing slope of the property. Built in 2010, it features energy-efficient underground barrel caves, solar-powered fermentation buildings and a gravity-fed crush pad. An air tasting room and patio invite visitors to experience the wines while enjoying the winery’s buzzing, eco-friendly gardens and commanding views of the surrounding hills and vineyards.

THE APPASSIONATA SUITE OF WINES



THE APPASSIONATA PINOT SONATA

INSPIRED BY THE THREE MOVEMENTS of Beethoven's complex and dramatically expressive "Appassionata" Piano Sonata, our Appassionata Pinot Sonata features three distinct but intertwined expressions of Willamette Valley Pinot Noir.

Allegro

The opening tier of Appassionata Pinot Noir bears the name of the Piano Sonata's first movement, Allegro, which is the musical pace of a brisk walk. This cuvée is a selection of barrels that show a precocious liveliness that will drink well as a youthful wine, but is built for aging. It is bottled after 18 to 20 months in barrel, and released three years after the vintage. The Allegro Pinot Noir beautifully displays the beginnings of bottle maturation, and will age gracefully for many years.

Andante

The second movement, Andante (gently, unhurried), is held longer in our cellar and released five years after the vintage. Made with the same patience and restraint, this bottling is selected to emphasize elegance and refinement, a style reflected in Beethoven's own performance direction for this movement: "Piano e Dolce" (softly and sweetly).

Fortissimo

Selected for ultimate expressivity and longevity, the Appassionata Pinot Noir finale, Fortissimo (dynamically forceful), is not released until 10 years after the vintage. This cuvée epitomizes what we are seeking in Willamette Valley Pinot Noir — a wine that combines brooding intensity with liting grace and can stand alongside the classic wines of the world for generations to come.

SAUVIGNON BLANC

A Vivace Prelude

Very little Sauvignon Blanc is grown in the Willamette Valley, but it performs well in the section of our vineyard that stands out for its alluvial clay soil. The Über Sauvignon is fermented and matured in large-format acacia barrels, which gives it the textural benefits of wooden casks, but without any oak taste. It's an invigorating prelude to any Appassionata performance.

CHARDONNAY

Oregon in the Key of C

Appassionata Chardonnay is the expressive summit of this classic Burgundian variety in the Willamette Valley. Fermented and matured in large (500-liter) oak casks, it rests on the full lees for two years before bottling. It then rests in our cellar for another year before its release, three years after vintage. The wine's elegant texture, fine structure and extended maturation time ensure a long life for this vibrant Chardonnay.

RIESLING GG

A Solo Star

Inspired by the historical winemaking techniques of Erni Loosen's great-grandfather, the Appassionata Riesling is made in the same way as the Dr. Loosen Grosses Gewächs Rieslings he produces in Germany. The GG designation indicates a dry-style wine from a vineyard of special distinction — in this case, the old-vine Medici vineyard, planted in 1976. The wine is fermented in a neutral, 3,000-liter German oak cask, rests on the full lees for two years, and is then held in bottle for three to five years before release.



OVERVIEW OF APPASSIONATA

FIRST VINTAGE: 2006

WINERY & VINEYARD ESTABLISHED: 2010

OWNER: Ernst Loosen

WINEMAKER: Timothy Malone

LOCATION: Newberg, Oregon

VINEYARD AREA: Appassionata Vineyard — 19.6 acres
Leased vineyards — 27 acres

SOIL TYPES: Volcanic clay; alluvial deposits; basalt bedrock

VITICULTURE: Farming sustainably (not certified)

VARIETIES: Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc