

# J. CHRISTOPHER



## Terroir-focused wines from the heart and soil of Oregon's Willamette Valley

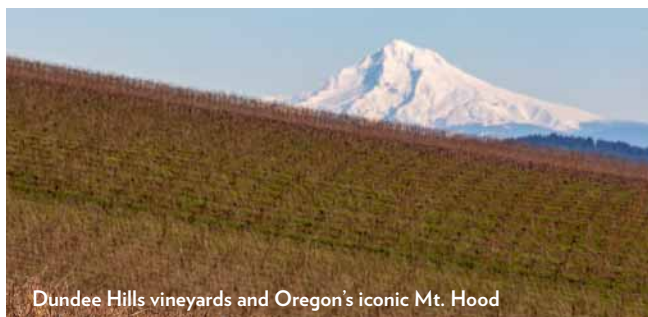


### J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

Produced in Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley, the range of J. Christopher Wines follows a patient winemaking approach that clearly expresses the unique character of their cool-climate roots. Owned by renowned Mosel winegrower, Ernst "Erni" Loosen (of Dr. Loosen), the wines are hand-crafted in small lots and are sourced from some of the finest sustainably-managed vineyards in the area.

The goal of J. Christopher Wines is to showcase the Old World finesse and elegance that Erni has always pursued in his German wines. As Erni puts it, "We want to make wines that have a fine balance of fruit, acidity and texture, while expressing their individual origins." The key to this is unhurried winemaking, which allows the wines to evolve at their own pace, with a minimum of intervention.

### ERNST LOOSEN INVESTS IN OREGON



Dundee Hills vineyards and Oregon's iconic Mt. Hood

As a young man working in the family wine business, Erni discovered the iconic wines of Burgundy and developed a deep, lifelong passion for Pinot Noir. Later, with many friends and a wine import company based in Oregon, he recognized that there was something very special going on in the Willamette Valley, and he wanted to be a part of it.

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 (after the Beethoven piano sonata). A few vintages later, he put down roots in Oregon, purchasing 40 acres in the Chehalem Mountains, planting the Appassionata Vineyard, and building the energy-efficient, eco-friendly Appassionata Estate winery where both the Appassionata and J. Christopher wines are produced.

### OVERVIEW OF J. CHRISTOPHER

**BRAND ESTABLISHED:** 1996

**OWNER:** Ernst Loosen

**WINEMAKER:** Timothy Malone

**LOCATION:** Newberg, Oregon

**VINEYARD SOURCES:**

- Appassionata & Medici Vineyards (Chehalem Mountains)
- Baptista-Maresh, Kolb, La Colina Vineyards (Dundee Hills)
- Bieze Vineyard (Eola-Amity Hills)
- Yamhill Vineyard (Yamhill-Carlton)

**SOIL TYPES:** Volcanic clay; alluvial deposits; basalt bedrock

**VITICULTURE:** Farming sustainably

**GRAPE VARIETIES:** Pinot Noir (80%), Chardonnay, Riesling  
Sauvignon Blanc

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION:** 10,000 cases

### TOP 100 WINERY

*Wine & Spirits Magazine* – 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019

# The Vines and Wines of J. Christopher



## VINEYARD SOURCES

We cultivate long-standing relationships with growers who believe, as we do, that high quality is vastly more important than high yields. Our top two fruit sources are our own Appassionata Vineyard and the nearby Medici Vineyard, both of which we farm ourselves. For the balance of our fruit, we work directly with excellent growers and vineyards in several different AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) the Northern Willamette Valley.

## ABOUT APPASSIONATA VINEYARD

Named for the high-end “Appassionata” cuvée that launched Erni’s foray into Oregon Pinot Noir, the Appassionata Estate vineyard was planted with various clones of Pinot Noir over a four year period, starting in 2010. In addition to 17 acres of Pinot Noir, there is a two-acre block of Chardonnay and one acre of Sauvignon Blanc. The vineyard is being farmed according to sustainable, environmentally sensitive practices (Salmon Safe, but not certified).

## CORE WINES OF J. CHRISTOPHER

### BEDROCK WINES

Cuvée Lunatique Chardonnay (No Malo, No New Oak)

Basalte Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)

Lunatique Rouge – Pinot Noir & Syrah (Oregon)

### SPECIAL-SELECTION WINES

Sol et Soleil Chardonnay (Barrel Fermented)

Volcanique Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills AVA Selection)

Lumière Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills AVA Selection)

### SINGLE-VINEYARD WINES

Estate “Rock Blocks” Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)

Medici Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)

Kolb Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills)

Bieze Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills)

*A small number of specialty and tiny-production wines are also made each year. Availability is limited, but a complete list can be provided upon request.*

## GRAPE VARIETIES

Our focus is on Pinot Noir, which has found a special home in the Willamette Valley. We also work with two classic white varieties: Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

## PINOT NOIR

Place matters. Our Pinot Noir is made to reflect where it was grown. We produce a range of Pinots that showcase the diversity of the valley’s soils, microclimates and distinct terroirs:

- **Basalte Pinot Noir** — Our bedrock cuvée, from rocky vineyards with thinner topsoil over fractured basalt subsoil.
- **Special Selection Wines** — Small-production, single-AVA blends focusing on a few favorite vineyard blocks.
- **Single-Vineyard Wines** — Top barrels selected to reflect the singular qualities of these distinctive sites.

## CHARDONNAY

Chardonnay is the natural companion to Pinot Noir. Our pure, unadorned Cuvée Lunatique Chardonnay is a vibrant cool-climate expression of the variety, produced in a combination of stainless steel and neutral oak barrels, with no malolactic fermentation. The new Sol et Soleil is a classic barrel-fermented Chardonnay that celebrates the stony soils and sunny ripeness that the variety can achieve in the Willamette Valley.

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

Although not widely planted in Oregon, Sauvignon Blanc is ideally suited to the same climate as Pinot Noir. Our estate-grown Chehalem Mountains Sauvignon Blanc is delicate and focused, with a bright, refreshing finish.

