



Anna Marie Vineyard (Oregon's Walla Walla Valley)



Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

J. CHRISTOPHER 2020 Lunatique Rouge

This cuvée combines the elegant, fruity notes of Pinot Noir with the bold, structural complexity of Syrah to honor Old World traditions.

This pairing of seeming opposites is not crazy, it's delicious! Burgundian producers, prior to French wine label regulation changes in the 1920s, often blended Syrah with their Pinot Noir to enhance the nature of the vintage. Syrah from eastern Oregon is rich and aromatically expressive which highlights the red fruit flavors of Pinot Noir grown in western Oregon. This wine is playful yet balanced and will complement a wide range of cuisines.

ABOUT THE 2020 VINTAGE

After a mild and dry winter, erratic swings in temperature and rainfall in spring caused an uneven fruit set and a smaller potential crop. Otherwise, fruit development was more or less normal throughout the dry and warm summer. In September, forest fires created smoky conditions throughout the Willamette Valley. Fortunately, the vineyards that we harvested were not heavily affected and we produced a range of very elegant and engaging wines that capture the nature of the vintage.

ABOUT J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

J. Christopher is a line of wines that elegantly capture the distinctive character of Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley. Owned by internationally renowned winegrower, Erni Loosen (also owner of Appassionata Estate, where the wines are produced), the focus is on expressive Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc made using the patient, unhurried approach of the Old World. Fruit for J. Christopher Wines is sourced from excellent growers in several different sub-appellations of the Willamette Valley. With a deep commitment to environmentally sustainable farming and production practices, the mission of J. Christopher Wines is to produce terroir-driven wines in an age-worthy style that emphasizes finesse, length and balance.

TECHNICAL INFO

Appellation: Oregon

Blend: Pinot Noir (70%), Syrah (30%)

Vineyard Sources: Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, Walla Walla Syrah (Oregon side of the AVA)

Soil Type: Volcanic and sedimentary

Viticulture: Sustainable and Organic

Vinification: 100% destemmed; native yeast fermentation; unforced malolactic; 20 months in barriques (20% new); no fining or filtration.

Alcohol: 13.5%

Total Production: 1,266 cases

FROM THE PRESS

[91] James Suckling

"Dark fruit, iron and smoked meat on the nose. Medium-to full-bodied with a tannic structure and a palate of red fruit and pepper. Subtle finish owing to the blend 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Syrah." April 2024

WINEMAKER NOTES

"The Lunatique Rouge comes across as a balanced wine. It still has a great Pinot element to it with nice acidity and black and blue fruit. The Syrah comes across with some meat, peppercorn and leather. It really is a nice balance and maintains a palate closer to Pinot Noir than Syrah, coming in at a very reasonable alcohol. This wine is a lot of fun and really opens up the food pairing possibilities."

— Tim Malone, Head of Winemaking and Viticulture.

