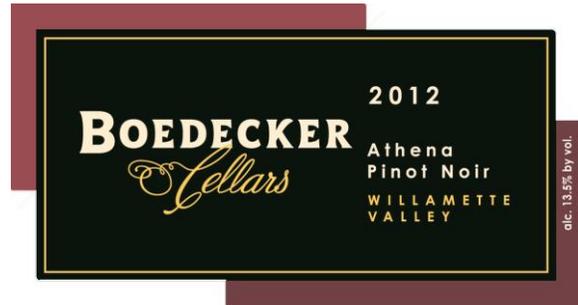


2012 Athena Pinot Noir
Willamette Valley



92 pts K JbY 5Xj cWJHY

VINEYARDS

Athena Pinot Noir is a cuvée from our top vineyards located primarily in the sub AVA of Yamhill-Carlton in Oregon's Willamette Valley. The marine sediment soils deliver a core of rich and structured wines. Shea Vineyards is a 200 acre vineyard first planted in the late 1980s and renown for some of the highest quality Pinot Noir in the Willamette Valley. Carlton Hill Vineyard was planted in 1999 on an East-facing slope at the foot of the Coast Range. Hirschy Vineyard was planted in 2007 just up the hill from the town of Yamhill, and Roshni Vineyard is located in the sub AVA of McMinnville planted on volcanic soils.

WINEMAKING

In order to single out the unique qualities of the vines, we ferment each vineyard, block, and clone separately in small 1.5 ton open top fermenters. We embrace spontaneous ferments, utilizing the unique yeasts from each vineyard's own indigenous population to enhance the diversity in each site's terroir. Secondary malolactic fermentation is also spontaneous, and elevage is sur lie, with lees stirring every 3 weeks. While mostly whole berry, the 35% whole cluster adds complex notes of olive wood and spice to deep intense berry flavors of the wine.

THE BLEND

Shea Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton. Dijon clone 115
Carlton Hill Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton. Dijon clone 777
Hirschy Vineyard, Yamhill-Carlton. Dijon clones 114, 115 and 667
Roshni Vineyard, McMinnville. Dijon clone 667 and Pommard

TASTING NOTES

Lush and vibrant, with black currants, blackberries and a hint of musky earth on the nose, the wine explodes into a juicy midpalate that is equal parts red/black fruit and sweet black tea. The spicy notes from the partial whole cluster component interlace with the bright fruit notes typical of these vineyards. The long finish of dark, sweet fruit and brambles lingers long on the palate.

