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THE HEART AND SOUL OF WINE COUNTRY DUNDEE HILLS

Written by COLE DANEHOWER

Wine, especially pinot noir wine, is all about place. Plant a pinot vine here and it will taste one way, plant it over there and it will taste a different way. Plant it in the Dundee Hills of Oregon's Willamette Valley, and it will likely taste of silky red cherries or raspberries with a touch of autumn-dewed forest floor and a smidgen of mysterious minerality. It should be, in short, the very signature of what the world thinks of as Oregon pinot noir.

Oregon pinot noir did not begin in the Dundee Hills, but it is in the Dundee Hills where Oregon pinot noir first won its worldwide reputation for greatness.

It is a well known story, but well worth retelling.



When one of Burgundy's most respected wine families acquired land in Oregon's Dundee Hills for a vineyard and winery, the wine world sat up and took notice. The creation of Domaine Drouhin by Robert Drouhin, the third-generation head of Maison Joseph Drouhin, and his daughter Veronique, put an indelible stamp of credibility on Oregon's wine potential.

In the autumn

OF 1964, A YOUNG GRADUATE OF THE FAMED VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY PROGRAM AT UC DAVIS NAMED DAVID LETT GATHERED 3,000 VINE CUTTINGS FROM VARIOUS CALIFORNIA VINEYARDS AND JUST AFTER CHRISTMAS HEADED NORTH TO OREGON.



© The Eyrie Vineyards/Diana Lett

David Lett and his grape cuttings established the Dundee Hills as the early epicenter of Oregon's wine community.

Lett had been taught that Oregon was too cold and wet to successfully grow wine grapes, but he thought otherwise. He was convinced the climate in the Willamette Valley was just right for certain so-called "cool climate" grapes, pinot noir—the great red grape of Burgundy—prime among them.

Unpropitiously, that winter was exceptionally wet, even for Oregon. Lett later recalled that the asphalt ribbon of the still-being built I-5 freeway was almost obscured by what seemed to be the surrounding Willamette Valley lake, so heavy had been the season's floods. Lett sheltered his cuttings in a rented nursery plot outside of Corvallis while he looked for permanent vineyard land.

He found exactly what he wanted on a south-exposed slope in what was then known as the Red Hills of Dundee. With his planting in 1966 of the first vines at what Lett christened The Eyrie Vineyards, he also fixed the Dundee Hills as ground zero of the Oregon pinot explosion that continues today.

Lett wasn't entirely alone in discovering the Dundee Hills' affinity for grapes. A pamphlet published in 1908 by the Yamhill County Development League featured a full-color plate of much earlier grapes grown on the "Red Hills of Yamhill." And quickly after Lett's vines went into the ground, new wine growing neighbors joined him on the Dundee Hills, including Dick Erath, Bill Blosser and Susan Sokol Blosser. A few years later, Burgundy itself followed.

In 1979, a blind tasting of pinot noir wines was held in Paris. To everyone's surprise, an upstart wine from Oregon's far off Dundee Hills outranked many of Burgundy's best wines. So impressive—and unlikely—was The Eyrie Vineyards 1975 South Block Reserve wine's performance, that a year later Robert

Drouhin, scion of Burgundy négociant, Maison Joseph Drouhin, staged a re-tasting on his home turf of Beaune, France. The result was essentially the same—and it changed Oregon forever.

Impressed with Oregon's potential, Robert's daughter Véronique came to the Dundee Hills in 1986 with a degree in enology and worked harvest at Eyrie and other nearby vineyards. The next year Robert purchased land in the Dundee Hills and founded Domaine Drouhin Oregon. The wine world was stunned: never before had a Burgundy producer invested so heavily in a New World venture.

With such an influential stamp of approval from a legendary Burgundy name, the Dundee Hills were off and running as the unofficial home of North America's best answer to Burgundy.

When today's worldwide wine lovers encounter a Willamette Valley pinot noir, chances are it had its roots in the slopes of the hills outside the hamlet of Dundee. Some of the best-known Oregon wine names—Domaine Drouhin Oregon, Stoller Family Estate, Erath, Archery Summit, Sokol Blosser, Domaine Serene—are based in the Dundee Hills.

So with all the enthusiastic acclaim, are the Dundee Hills really that great for wine? In a word, yes.

DUNDEE HILLS TERROIR

The French term *terroir* is difficult to explain; literally, it means the "taste" of a place. Broadly, it refers to the idea that wines express the unique characteristics of the place where the grapes were grown. This is also the concept, in a wider way, behind the idea of appellations, or designated wine growing regions. The Dundee Hills was granted the American



© John Valls



(Top left) Jesse Lange joined his father Don Lange as part of the family's wine-making team in 2004. As General Manager of Lange Estate Winery and Vineyard, Jesse is building on the 27 year legacy of the Dundee Hills family winery, founded in 1987 by Don and Wendy Lange. (Top and lower right) Durant Vineyards, at Red Ridge Farm, epitomize the

signature quality of Dundee Hills grapes. (Right) One of the most recognized Dundee Hills producers, Archery Summit winery was one of the first in Oregon to carve underground wine caves. (Bottom left) Domaine Serene's Italian-inspired winery is a Dundee Hills landmark, and their perennially high-scored wines are some of the most desired from the appellation.



© John Valls



TORII MOR

Winemaker and native Burgundian Jacques Tardy brings a heritage of five generations of winemaking to the crafting of Dundee Hills wines for Torii Mor Winery. Founded in 1993 by Dr. Donald Olson, and drawing upon the Olson Estate Vineyard planted in 1972, Torii Mor is noted for beautifully made wine with strong structure and balance.



(Top left) Native Flora winery is surrounded by forest on three sides and open sky on the fourth. Visitors are encouraged to roam the 33-acre site and enjoy the stunning vistas. (Top right) Grapes have been grown at Red Ridge Farms for nearly 40 years. The proprietors have expanded their offerings to include a specialty nursery, olive grove, and lavender fields. The region's

reddish silt, clay and loam soils produce some of the world's most distinct pinot noir wines. (Bottom right) Bill Sweat and Donna Morris founded Winderlea Vineyard and Winery in 2006 to pursue their vision of pinot noir. Through LIVE-certified sustainable farming and artisan wine-making they have earned an enviable reputation for the quality of their Dundee Hills wines.



version of appellation status, called an American Viticultural Area (AVA), in 2004. AVAs aren't about wine quality, but they are about geography—and geography determines the personality of wine.

It starts with the climate. As part of the larger Willamette Valley AVA, the Dundee Hills AVA shares a climate that is ideally suited to the evolutionarily-conditioned ripening habits of grapes that require a “cool” climate to ripen properly.

Stand amidst the vines of a Dundee Hills vineyard in the middle of summer and you would not consider it cool. But for a grape, the amount of growing season heat it receives in the Willamette Valley is less than in other, warmer regions (such as eastern Washington, or much of lower-latitude California). This makes the region perfect for pinot noir, pinot gris, chardonnay, riesling, and other grapes best adapted to cooler areas.

But even within the Willamette Valley, the Dundee Hills has its own climatic character that makes its wines distinct from neighboring appellations.

The Dundee Hills are a circular-ish set of Coast Range foothills that rise above the valley floor to a little over 1,000 feet. The Yamhill-Carlton AVA is to the west, between the Dundee Hills and the Coast Range. This means the Dundee Hills are better protected from marine air and Pacific Ocean storms, and so is a bit drier and warmer than the Yamhill-Carlton AVA.

At the same time, the higher Chehalem Mountains lie to the north, providing protection from cold winter winds and hot summer breezes that flow into the Willamette Valley from the Columbia Gorge. The Dundee Hills, therefore, are generally more moderate in temperature than other parts of the region—which helps give the AVA's grapes a more uniform character.

It ends with the dirt. Perhaps more than anything else, the Dundee Hills are known for their rufous-hued, iron-rich, silty clay loam soils called Jory. Formed from decomposed ancient basalt (which is the soil's bedrock), Jory is now the official state soil of Oregon and is highly prized for its affinity for pinot noir.

HOW THE AVA
GOT ITS NAME

For generations the undulating hills west of the town of Dundee, Oregon, have been known as the Red Hills of Dundee. From the start wineries in the area proudly referred to their location as the Red Hills of Dundee. Wine books published before 2005, including the seminal *North American Pinot Noir* by John Winthrop Haeger and *The Oxford Companion to the Wines of North America*, refer to the area as the Red Hills of Dundee.

So why is the appellation now called the Dundee Hills? When Willamette Valley vineyard owners and winemakers decided to petition for a series of new, more specific AVAs, one of the submissions was to create a new “Red Hills” AVA. But, at around the same time, a slightly prior petition was received by the government for a “Red Hill” AVA in Southern Oregon.

Despite the fact that the dozens of vineyards and wineries located in Willamette Valley hills outside of Dundee had been known as the Red Hills for generations, or that the submission from Southern Oregon encompassed but a single vineyard, there was an obvious potential for confusion between the “Red Hills” and “Red Hill”.

The Willamette Valley petitioners revised their proposed name to be “Red Hills of Dundee.” Unfortunately, there are a variety of other wine appellations, both domestically and internationally, that contain some form of the names “Red” and “Hill(s).” In order to avoid consumer confusion, the final approved name of the Willamette Valley child—AVA became “Dundee Hills AVA,” and the Southern Oregon appellation became the “Red Hill of Douglas County, Oregon AVA.” Not ideal for either party, but workable.



(Above) Vineyards in the Dundee Hills produce some of the finest cool-climate vinifera fruit in the country. In the autumn, as vines re- pose into dormancy, green leaves turn to gold and life generally slows. At Winderlea Vineyards there's time to walk the vine rows.

(Lower right) At Durant Vineyards,

one of the regions leading independent vineyards and one of the earliest planted, with vines going into the ground in 1973, Ken Durant reflects on the harvest. As pioneers in the Oregon wine industry, the Durant family has focused on producing premier pinot noir, pinot gris and chardonnay.



© John Vallis

This dirt is unusually deep for hillside soils, ranging from 6 to 8 feet between surface and bedrock, and it is only moderately fertile, capable of few agricultural crops. But grapes love it. It drains well enough to keep grapevine roots dry during the summer, yet holds just enough moisture to generally not require irrigation. It maintains a comfortable temperature for roots during the summer, and does not freeze in the winter. And, it is more on the acidic side than the alkaline, a fact that some believe adds to the flavors it imparts in the grapes.

All of this is not to say that Jory soil is better for pinot noir than other soils, only that it lends certain characteristics to pinot noir wines—especially those from the Dundee Hills.

WINES

Other grape varieties grow here, and beautifully so, but it is the character of the pinot noir that has given the Dundee Hills their celebrity. Pinot noir is famously “transparent”, meaning that it displays the unique characteristics of the vintage and place where it was grown more readily than other grapes. So while pinot noir wines grown at the vineyards in the Dundee Hills will vary in style, there does seem to be an overall Dundee Hills pinot noir character.

It is always dicey describing the characteristics of wine since everyone’s sense of flavors and aromas differ. Nevertheless, over the decades Dundee Hills pinot noir wines have come to be associated with a common set of attributes.



De PONTE CELLARS

Isabelle Dutarte is a Burgundian who has found her winemaking home in the Dundee Hills. Since its establishment in 1999, Isabelle has made the head-turning pinot noir wines of De Ponte Cellars. Not only is she able to draw on pinot noir from one of the oldest estate vineyards in the region, but she also makes delightful estate white wines from the rare melon de Bourgogne grape, famous as the grape for Muscadet wines. Though not as flashy as some of their neighbors, De Ponte Cellars is a favorite of the local wine cognoscenti.



ARGYLE

Nate Klostermann is at the helm of winemaking at Argyle Winery, one of the best-known wineries in the Dundee Hills. Argyle is one of the few producers of sparkling wine in Oregon, and has achieved widespread acclaim for their Vintage Brut, Blanc de Blancs, Brut Rosé, and Knudsen Vineyard Brut sparklers. Of equal stature, however, is their series of pinot noir, chardonnay, and riesling wines. Klostermann and Argyle produce one of the widest range of wine styles in the appellation.

First of all, the fruit flavors seem to be redolent of the kind of lushly flavored red berry fruits that ripen so wonderfully in the Northwest: Bing cherry, Hood strawberry, Stevens cranberry, Cascade Delight raspberry. Often these flavors are accompanied by a sense of pretty violet or lavender notes, adding a pleasing floral quality.

Frequently the fruitiness is accented by gentle earthy undertones, sometimes reminiscent of the smells you experience when walking in a damp autumn forest, or when raking dried leaves, or even when turning fresh garden humus. Sometimes there are hints of minerality, a difficult to describe sensation of “wet stones” or a kind of dried, slightly edgy salinity.

Besides the flavors and smells of Dundee Hills pinot noirs, they are also noted for gentle tannins, medium-to-high acidity, medium-to-light body, and generous, silky textures. Taken together, these different traits combine to create wines of uncommon elegance, even grace, yet with focus and intensity. They seem to have a kind of energy to them, yet without overt boldness or drama. They embody the cliché descriptor of the best pinot noirs: an iron fist in a velvet glove.

EXPERIENCING THE WINES

Of course you can go to the wine shop, find a few bottles of Dundee Hills wine, and take them home to enjoy. But the very best way to experience the wines of the Dundee Hills is to go visit the wineries themselves: taste the place at the place. The Dundee Hills are only about 25 miles southwest of Portland, so a weekend’s jaunt is easy to do.

But deciding which wineries to visit is far less simple!

Scattered around the vineyard-strewn hills, you can choose to visit any of the “big name” wineries, those who have nationally-prominent brands and which have created sophisticated, in some cases luxurious, tasting options. Erath, Domaine Drouhin Oregon, Stoller Family Estate, Archery Summit, Sokol Blosser, and Domaine Serene are all examples of prestige labels with engaging tasting rooms that offer estate vineyard views and customized tasting options. Often there are outside seating facilities and winery tours available as well.

Also strewn about the hills are many smaller estates that have been important in the development of the Willamette Valley’s wine culture, and which offer excellent visiting facilities and superb wines. Lange Estate Winery & Vineyards, Winter’s Hill Vineyard, DePonte Cellars, Hyland Estates, Maresh Red Barn, Torii Mor are excellent hillside examples. Down from the slopes, in Dundee itself, the tasting rooms of Argyle Winery and Dobbles Family Estate are must-visits for signature examples of Dundee Hills wines.

Despite its long history, the Dundee Hills are also home to a growing group of newer wineries that often push the envelope of wine style and quality. A visit to any of the following wineries offers new discoveries for wine lovers wishing to go beyond the traditional wine



© Richard Knapp

(Top) Archery Summit is one of the great prestige labels of the Northwest. General Manager and winemaker Chris Mazepink ensures the winery’s tradition of quality is pushed forward in every vintage. (Right) Domaine Trouvère wines focus on specific vineyard blocks and are vinted

in small lots and processed by hand. (Below) Robert Schultz is the vineyard manager for Stoller Family Estate, and emphasizes LIVE-certified sustainable growing practices. Their pinot noir characteristically expresses a combination of red to darker fruits, spice, and fine-grain tannins.



© John Valls



© Carolyn Wells-Kramer



(Above) From vine to bottle, the wines of the Dundee Hills are hand-grown and hand-made. Sheep in the vine rows at Native Flora illustrate their emphasis on natural farming practices. The focus on minimal intervention in winemaking means that Dundee Hills wines are true expressions of the

terroir of each vineyard block. (Right) Dundee Hills pinot noirs tend to be very focused with great clarity and complexity. Common descriptors are bright red fruits, exotic spices, and a gorgeous minerality in the structure. (Below) Stoller Family Estate's vines epitomize the beauty of the appellation.



labels: Winderlea Vineyard & Winery, ROCO Winery, Alexana Winery, White Rose Estate, Vista Hills Vineyard & Winery, The Four Graces, Thistle Wines, Durant Vineyards, Crumbled Rock, Winery, Bella Vida Vineyard, Barrel Fence, Armonéa Vineyard & Winery, and Domaine Trouvère.

Some of the most important, and interesting Dundee Hills wineries have their tasting rooms in out-of-the-AVA locations. The AVA's founding winery for instance, The Eyrie Vineyards, does their tastings at the original winery in nearby McMinnville. Westrey Wine Company, likewise, can be visited by appointment at their facility in McMinnville. Fox Farm Vineyards operates out of their tasting room in Newberg.

Besides the tasting rooms, a variety of other Dundee Hills vineyards and wineries offer tastings by appointment, including Anderson Family Vineyard, Ayoub Winery, Native Flora and Nysa Vineyard. A few Dundee Hills wineries, Cameron and Dusky Goose for example, do not offer tasting opportunities.

Of course, there is no rule that says you have to be located in the Dundee Hills in order to make wine from the Dundee Hills! Many out-of-the-AVA winemakers produce wines from Dundee Hills fruit. Élevée Vineyard pinot noir is made by Penner-Ash Wine Cellars, for instance. Crowley makes Dundee Hills pinot noirs from La Colina and Gehrts Vineyards, Matello uses fruit from the Durant vineyard, and Et Fille makes a fine pinot noir from Maresh Vineyard.

So it is easy to experience the Dundee Hills in any number of ways. But however you choose to visit the Dundee Hills, or to sample the appellation's wines, you will undoubtedly be impressed with their distinctive characters. There is wine history to be experienced in this AVA, but there is also freshness and innovation. In nearly every respect, the Dundee Hills embodies all that is wonderful about Oregon's wine culture!



ALEXANA

Bryan Weil oversees wine production at Alexana Winery, one of the newest Dundee Hills producers working to advance the appellation's reputation for quality. The vision of Dr. Madaiah Revana, Alexana's 55-acre LIVE-certified sustainable estate vineyard has 18 different soil types, offering Bryan and consulting winemaker Lynn Penner-Ash an enviable diversity of soil profiles to work with in crafting their pinot noir, chardonnay, and riesling wines.



(Upper Left) Don Lange, along with Wendy Lange founded Lange Estate Winery in 1987, making it one of the most sought after sources for Dundee Hills wines. (Left) the red Jory soil of Erath Prince Hill Vineyard. S (Below Left) Alison Sokol Blosser, Co-President and CEO of Sokol Blosser, along with brother Alex Sokol Blosser, Co-President and Winemaker, are taking this founding

Dundee Hills winery into its second generation of family ownership. (Above right) Winter's Hill Vineyard was created by Emily and Peter Gadhart in 1990. Today, son Russell manages sales and marketing while his French-born wife Delphine is the estate's winemaker. (Right and below) Domaine Serene has an international reputation as one of Oregon's leading prestige wine brands.



WINTER'S HILL estate



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Sitting atop the storied Dundee Hills of Oregon, Winter's Hill proudly produces estate Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc (and a few other gems).

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Cole Danehower Tasting Notes
DUNDEE HILLS



Tasting Notes

Cole Danehower is a James Beard Foundation Journalism Award winner and author of the book *Essential Wines and Wineries of the Pacific Northwest*. He has covered the Oregon and Northwest wine scene since 1998. Love Northwest wine? Read Cole's blog at: EssentialNorthwestWines.com

ALEXANA 2012 Pinot Noir, Revana Vineyard Estate, Dundee Hills	\$48
Meaty aromas of blackberry and plum fruit, forest floor humus, and a touch of tar lend a savory accent to the nose. Similar qualities show in the mouth, with rich blackberry flavor surrounded by hints of vanilla, cocoa, and earth. Dense texture packs plenty of fruit, and will likely develop beautifully with some cellaring.	
2011 Riesling, Revana Vineyard, Dundee Hills	\$28
Electrum color leads to opulent signature riesling scents of spice (sometimes called "petrol"), fresh hay, and wet concrete. On the palate focused and zingy flavors of white peach, pear skin, and dried hay have power and authority. Dry in style, tart green apple and clove-spiked pear notes also appear on the resounding finish.	
ARCHERY SUMMIT 2012 Pinot Noir, Red Hills Estate, Dundee Hills	\$85
Vibrant purple color is distinctive. Intense aromas of crushed plums and berries mix enticingly with dried basil and garden humus. Silky texture delivers complex sweet black cherry-focused flavors with clove, rose hip, toast, and black tea. Excellently balanced acid and tannin frames the fruit well. A big wine with surprising delicacy.	
2012 Pinot Noir, Renegade Ridge Estate, Dundee Hills	\$85
Pastel-hued dark purple color introduces meaty pinot perfume with herbal accents. Surprisingly light on the tongue, sweet raspberry flavors are ringed by notes of cinnamon, cola, and violets. Strong structure isn't obtrusive, bright acids add verve, and the finish is reminiscent of caramel-coated apples.	
ARGYLE 2009 Brut, Knudsen Vineyard, Dundee Hills 75% Pinot noir, 25% Chardonnay	\$50
Brilliant white gold color. Biscuity scents of dried grass and rain-spattered stones with a leesy edge. Great energy to the ripe peach and dried apricot fruitiness, along with a potent streak of minerality, all accentuated by the fine mousse. A mighty tasty sparkler.	
2012 Pinot Noir, Spirithouse, Knudsen Vineyard, Master Series, Dundee Hills	\$75
Deep and meaty scents of forest floor, caramel, and dark red berries greet the nose. Tart strawberry-centered crushed red fruits swaddle the palate with beautifully balanced fruit, acid, and fine-grained tannin. Elegant, yet potent, the finish is lingering and memorable.	
ARMONÉA 2012 Pinot Noir, Summit Vineyard, Dundee Hills	\$35
Sweet cherry blossom scents emerge from a background of molasses and caramel, all of which reappear on the plush palate. A floral overlay adds an uplifting note. Pliable tannins add weight to the medium-length finish.	
2012 Late Harvest Riesling, Wine Country Farm Estate, Dundee Hills	\$30
Lavish honey gold color and scents of burnt sugar and freshly crushed herbs are diagnostic of a true "sticke" dessert wine. Syrupy mouth feel is redolent with sweet, spicy notes of petrol and dried herbs. Oozy with soft honeyed flavors.	

BARREL FENCE CELLARS 2009 Pinot Noir, North 45, Sims Estate Vineyard, Dundee Hills	\$33
Caramel-like scents mingle with vanilla and clove notes on the sweetly spicy nose. As the wine opens plum and blackberry notes rise from a toasty background. Good structure and freshening acidity brightens the dark-fruit finish.	
BELLA VIDA 2011 Pinot Noir, Two Row, Proprietor's Cuvée, Dundee Hills	\$60
Herbaceous nose of rosemary, graphite, brown spices, and crushed red fruits. Candied cherry flavors are ringed by a sense of dried leaves, and rhubarb pie. Thanks to great acidity, this wine has a zesty oomph that keeps the flavors alive throughout the lingering finish.	
COTTONWOOD WINERY OF OREGON 2012 Pinot Noir, Brigitte Catherine, Dundee Hills	\$54
Restrained smells of bacon fat, sage, and red fruit take a few moments to emerge, but are soon complemented by lavender potpourri notes. In the mouth the wine is supple and viscid, carrying well-defined red cherry and boysenberry flavors backed by soft tannins. The finish is pleasingly sweet and fruity.	
CRUMBLIED ROCK 2011 Pinot Noir, Juliard Vineyard, Dundee Hills	\$33
Herbal scents of dried rosemary and garden soil with cherry fruit aromas and rose blossoms developing in the background. Soft, with red cherry flavors and a restrained style. Finishes nicely with furry tannins and a touch of cola.	
DE PONTE CELLARS 2010 Pinot Noir, Meyer Vineyard, Dundee Hills	\$25
Perfumed herbal scents combine with white fruits on the appealing nose. Light and tangy on the tongue with dancing flavors of kiwi, lime, and pineapple. The mouth feel is pliant and plush, yet there is a lively freshness to the flavors. A touch of spicy citrus peel appears on the finish.	
2011 Pinot Noir, Estate, Dundee Hills	\$55
Pretty, scarlet color introduces elaborate smells of cherry blossoms, crushed strawberries, freshly-turned earth, and caramel. Equally involved on the palate, flavors of red fruits, ground coffee, cola, and violet pastilles are satisfying. Excellent fresh acidity adds to the charm of this tart, fruity, and elegant wine.	
DOBBES FAMILY ESTATE 2010 Pinot Noir, Meyer Vineyard, Dundee Hills	\$65
Spicy scents of tea leaf and basil envelope a pure core of crushed red fruits on the nose. Velvety in the mouth, the wine bathes the palate with juicy tart strawberry and Bing cherry flavors, with aromatic accents of lavender and rose hips. Gentle acidity and pliable background tannins add to the dried cherry-rich finish.	
2009 Pinot Noir, Dundee Cuvée, Dundee Hills	\$65
Dark purple core color devolves to rose petal red at the rims. Assertive aromas of bright cranberry and strawberry fruits are framed by subtle tar and black tea tones. On the tongue the soft texture contrasts interestingly with forward and fresh flavors of raspberry and pomegranate, with red licorice and cola accents. Full and broad, yet with a lively character that extends throughout the finish.	

DOMAINE
TROUVÉRE



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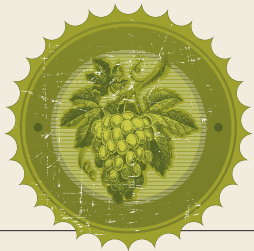
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Tasting Notes

DOMAINE DROUHIN OREGON

2012 Pinot Noir, Drouhin Family Estate, Dundee Hills \$45
Gleaming rosy-purple color is eye-catching. Aromas of dried autumn leaves and damp mushrooms contrast delightfully with forward, sweet cherry scents. Beautifully balanced on the palate, flavors of fresh and tart cherry fruit are softened by gentle tannins hanging in the background like a red velvet curtain. The finish is long and fruity with a hint of toast.

2011 Pinot Noir, Laurène, Dundee Hills \$65
Puissant perfume of crushed red fruits, black tea, dewy pine needles, and toast keep you coming back for more sniffs. The silky texture and plush heft of the wine on the palate is addicting, and the layered tastes of ripe cherry and blackberry, molasses, anise, and pie crust are compelling. Superbly balanced throughout the tasting experience.

DOMAINE SERENE

2012 Chardonnay, Evenstad Reserve, Dundee Hills \$55
Gleaming golden color leads to deep aromas of ripe peach, pears, and a wet concrete aspect that are alluring in combination. The peach quality shows up delightfully in the mouth, along with a slight bit of pear skin and a citrus peel bite. Deft use of a touch of oak gives the wine weight and character.

2011 Pinot Noir, Evenstad Reserve, Dundee Hills \$65
Medium-hued dusky maroon color, with meaty aromas of plum and raspberry fruits accented with a hint of mint, give an initial allure to the wine. Forward sweet/tart red fruit has a mouthwatering brightness and a dulcet rhubarb note on the mid-palate. A succulent and satisfying wine with strong structure and a firm finish.

DOMAINE TROUVÉRE

2010 Chardonnay, Dundee Hills \$28
Clean and bright scents of lemon verbena and wet concrete are mouth-watering. Tart lemony flavors have a zippy quality thanks to jaunty acidity. A touch of rosemary herbs and a citrus peel bite add interest. The finish is lively and lengthy.

DURANT VINEYARDS AT RED RIDGE

2012 Chardonnay, Raven, Dundee Hills \$25
Mineral scents of slate and fresh hay are inviting. In the mouth peachy flavors are round and pliable, with sharper lemon curd and orange peel accents. There is a pleasing pear skin bite and verbena mint tone to the finish. This is a wine that has delicacy and power all at once.

2012 Pinot Noir, Bishop, Dundee Hills \$65
Heavy aromas of ripe pinot fruit mingle with richly floral notes of rose petals and violets. Soft and lush in the mouth, high-toned, sweetly ripe cherry flavors contrast nicely with the lush mouthfeel and soft tannins in this elegantly restrained wine. The finish has power, with a gentle herb quality adding interest.

ERATH

2011 Pinot Noir, Niederberger, Dundee Hills \$50
Clean and pure aromas of ripe red berries shine from a background of soft sage and brown spices. Focused cranberry and cherry fruits are tart, clean, and lean on the palate, but with a pleasing sun-dried fruit leather aspect. Brittle tannins are a touch forward, but really just serve to give the fruit depth. Finishes long with floral potpourri notes.

2011 Pinot Noir, Prince Hill, Dundee Hills \$50
Lively rose red color has a vivacious appeal that contrasts with savory scents of molasses and caramel-dipped strawberries. Vibrant cranberry notes shine against an eclectic backdrop of cardamom, tangerine peel, and rhubarb. Pleasingly jaunty and quite complex, stand-up acidity and subtle wood tannins add length to the satisfying finish.

LANGE ESTATE WINERY & VINEYARD

2013 Chardonnay, Estate, Dundee Hills \$65
Polished white gold color. Scents of talc and white peach are forward and pretty. In the mouth piercing peach flavors are potent and lively, with a touch of apricot around the edges. There is a creamy texture to this wine, yet the acidity gives the flavors a spirited energy. The finish is lingering and full of fruit. Beautifully made.

2012 Pinot Noir, Lange Estate Vineyard, Dundee Hills \$70
Intense and dark purple color gives way to expansive scents of crushed cherries, mint-tinged vanilla, and dried earth. Plush on the palate, ripe flavors of raspberries, cherries, and a touch of blueberry are dense and layered, yet combine with lovely notes of violets. Stand-up (not stand-out) tannins and sufficient acidity combine with a sweet and floral finish in this full and complex wine.

NATIVE FLORA

2010 Pinot Noir, First Time, Dundee Hills \$45
Soft red to burnt umber color with rich scents of basil-accented dried cherries. Red berry fruit flavors are framed with good acidity and structure. A floral undercurrent of rose blossoms gives the finish appeal.

2012 Pinot Noir, Jaguar, Dundee Hills \$68
Dark maroon color with purple edges. Smoky aromas include graphite and toast notes hovering above the more gentle red fruit tones. In the mouth the core cherry fruit has an edge of candied lavender combined with a sense of wet leaves. The finish marries red fruits, smoke, and earth.

NYSA VINEYARD

2005 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills \$75
Dusky maroon color and smells of damp leaves, lavender potpourri, and dried fruit speak to a more mature wine. Fruit-sweet and plush on the palate, raspberry flavors are wrapped in pleasing floral notes. Noticeable tannins on the brightly tart finish.

2006 Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills \$55
Fragrances of burnt brown sugar, cola, and dried plums are savory and intriguing. Remarkably fruit-sweet flavors of raspberry and strawberry are complemented by a sense of licorice and baking spices, with a touch of molasses. Finishes a bit soft, and a tad hot, but with a sustained sense of fruit.

PENNER-ASH WINE CELLARS

2012 Pinot Noir, Bella Vida Vineyard, Dundee Hills \$65
Gentle wafts of dried autumn leaves and mint-accented cherry fruit rise from the glass. Supple texture carries bright tastes of pomegranate and strawberry with a subtle earthy quality. Fresh acidity adds verve and pliable tannins give body to the piquant finish.

2012 Pinot Noir, Élevée Vineyard, Dundee Hills \$65
Subtle campfire smoke scents blend with smells of cherry pie and cinnamon for an appealing nose. Medium-weight in the mouth, plump and tart blackberry fruit has a sense of force thanks to good acidity and firm structure. Dried herbs and a tart plum-skin aspect add dimension on the tangy finish.

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