

# BENTON-LANE

## 2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir



**VARIETAL** 100% Pinot Noir

**APPELLATION** Willamette Valley

**AGING** 100% French oak, 19% new; Aged 10 months in barrel

**FINAL ANALYSIS** TA: 6.2 | pH: 3.55 | Alcohol: 13.3%

Established in 1988, Benton-Lane was born from the spirit of rugged individualism and relentless exploration. True Oregon. Sustainably Farmed.

### THE VINTAGE

After a mild Oregon winter, the growing season began with an average-timed budbreak. This was followed by lovely, warm spring temperatures in April and May, which accelerated growth and led to an early bloom in the first week of June. Erratic temperatures and spring rains during flowering partially disrupted pollination, which naturally decreased yields to a nearly perfect amount. Temperature spikes from late June to early August did not negatively impact vines or fruit quality in the Willamette Valley, as our healthy canopies and deep root systems enabled them to stay cooled and protected. The middle of August through early September saw ideal temperatures, which ensured excellent ripening of flavors and textures without sacrificing freshness. With these magnificent late summer days, we picked with precision, at a moderate pace, with sugars, acids, and tannins in beautiful proportions. The autumn rains came, but not before all the fruit was safely in the cellar.

### VINIFICATION

The must underwent a pre-fermentation “cold soak” to increase extraction of color and flavor. Fermentation took place in a mix of small and large fermenters with each cap managed individually to optimize maceration. The individual lots were fermented with specially chosen yeast, and after pressing, the wine underwent malolactic fermentation naturally in French oak barrels.

### TASTING NOTES

Vibrant ripe cherry, cranberry, and raspberry nose unfold into dried blueberries, plum, and lively summer herbs. Full, plush, and balanced textures with fine grained tannins and a gentle, bright acidity. This wine is complex and layered, with ripe, fresh flavors and elegance.

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