

WALNUT CITY 2018 'Old Vines' Pinot Noir



VINEYARD

La Cantera Vineyard, Chehalem Mountains AVA

Blocks 1 & 2 | Own-rooted Pommard & Wädenswil clones | Planted 1986 | 600 - 684' | S/SW | Laurelwood; fine-grained, wind-deposited loess on basalt | Non-irrigated, LIVE Certified Sustainable, Salmon Safe

OVERVIEW

The 2018 vintage had been in barrel for over a year before the idea to release this wine took shape. La Cantera was the first of our estate vineyards to be planted. The original vines, blocks 1 & 2, went into the ground in 1986 and have matured into a faithful contributor to our reserve program for nearly two decades. These are the only own-rooted blocks of La Cantera, with the remaining acres grafted on phylloxera-resistant rootstock.

Over the last 10 years we've watched yields in these blocks diminish as the vines slow from the pressures of phylloxera. In 2018, the old vines gave less than a ton of fruit per acre. What they delivered was small, but exceptional. A year later, the barrels held a truly exceptional wine, and we couldn't imagine a portion not being bottled on its own. As we plan the inevitable replanting of the original rows, we are thrilled to have captured La Cantera at its absolute best.

VINIFICATION

Hand-picked on September 28th at 25.2° brix. Following an extractive cold soak, fermentation proceeded uninoculated and the grapes were pressed after 17 days. Aged in French oak barrels on fine lees for 15 months.

VINTAGE

Even after a string of great vintages, 2018 is poised to be a standout. Spring and summer were exceptionally warm and dry – with perhaps fewer of the dramatic heat spikes seen in recent years. The harvest season ushered in a long, dry, beautiful fall. Cool nights and mild daytime temperatures extended ripening while maintaining balance, brightness and natural acidity.

TASTING NOTE

Depth and generosity define the nose of the 2018 'Old Vines' Pinot Noir. The signature sweet spice and dusty floral aromas of La Cantera jump from the glass and integrate harmoniously with layers of deep red cherry, pomegranate and bramble. Lovely clarity and elegance balance the wildness and vibrancy of the fruit. Tannins are sturdy but fine-grained and present with elegance.

ABOUT

Since 1999, we've been crafting wines that promote distinctiveness, quality and sustainability, while delivering genuine value. Estate farming is the key to achieving these goals – from over 30 years of developing our vineyard portfolio, it's at the core of what we do. Our hand in the winery never speaks louder than the grapes or their place of origin. We strive for natural balance in our wines and allow the strong influence of vintage in the Willamette Valley to shine through. From harvest to bottle, our cellar program was built around handling wine in small, unique lots.

