

# TUMWATER VINEYARD



## 2015 WILLAMETTE VALLEY

### THE VINTAGE

The 2015 growing season was nearly ideal. Above average spring temperatures allowed for an early and even bloom and fruit set, preparing the stage for a generous yield. The three months that followed, June, July, and August, were warm and dry allowing the vines to fully ripen the crop. The result was both perfectly ripe fruit and a generous yield.

Overall, the vintage provided beautiful fruit with the wines showing extraordinary depth and balance. Right up there with the 2008 and 2012 vintages, 2015 is easily one of the best vintages of the last decade.

### THE DATA

Harvest Date:	Brix at harvest: 24.0
9/4-10/5/2015	Days of Skin Contact: 12-16
pH: 3.62	
TA: 5.3	
Alc: 13.5	

### THE NOTES

N: Crushed cherries, blue fruits, clove, leather, earth, bramble

M: Medium body, soft tannins, juicy, plum, with a lively youthfulness



## THE AVA

The Willamette Valley, Oregon's leading wine region, has two-thirds of the state's wineries and vineyards and is home to more than 500 wineries. It is recognized as one of the premier Pinot noir producing areas in the world.

The Willamette Valley is a huge and varied appellation that includes six sub-appellations: Chehalem Mountains, Dundee Hills, Eola-Amity Hills, McMinnville, Ribbon Ridge and Yamhill-Carlton.

Buffered from Pacific storms on the west by the Coast Range, the valley follows the Willamette River north to south for more than a hundred miles from the Columbia River near Portland to just south of Eugene. To the east, the Cascade Range draws the boundary between the Willamette Valley's misty, cool climate and the drier, more extreme climate of eastern Oregon.

At its widest point, this long, broad valley spans sixty miles. Overall, the climate boasts a long, gentle growing season – warm summers with cool evenings; bursts of Indian summer into fall; mild winters followed by long springs. In ideal years the maritime climate provides the best conditions possible for growing the cool-climate grape variety for which Oregon is best known: Pinot noir. In lesser years, fall weather can be tricky, causing winemakers to pull their hair. In this matter the Willamette Valley compares favorably with the Burgundy and Alsace regions of France. And, like it or not, the often finicky Willamette Valley climate is the promised land for Pinot noir in America.

*TEXTS: Courtesy Willamette Valley Wineries Association*