

J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

2009 CHARLIE'S VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



Winemaker Jay Somers with his dog, Nina.

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Located in Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley, J. Christopher Wines is a small winery that specializes in Pinot Noir made in the traditional style of Burgundy, and in Sauvignon Blanc modeled after the great wines of Sancerre. The winery is owned by Jay Somers, who has been making wine in Oregon for more than 15 years. Jay's wines are hand-crafted in small lots and are sourced from some of the best vineyards in Oregon.

The philosophy at J. Christopher is to produce wines in an Old World style that emphasizes focus, length and balance. As Jay puts it, "We do not make fruit bombs! We want wines that have a fine balance of fruit, acidity and texture. We want wines that give you more than just a big mid-palate blast — wines that are complete."

Jay and Ernst Loosen met years ago, and cemented their friendship when Jay traveled to Germany to help the short-handed harvest crew at Dr. Loosen. In 2010, they formed a partnership and began construction of a winery and vineyard in Newberg, Oregon. The new venture, Loosen Christopher Wines LLC, produces wines under the already-established "J. Christopher" brand. As winemaker for the joint venture, Jay is in charge of all winery operations. Ernst sees his role as that of an investor who both supports the growth of the J. Christopher brand and broadens the winery's exposure to Old World ideas and techniques.



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Charlie's Vineyard is a three-acre, east-facing site in the red Jory soil of the Dundee Hills, just a bit down the hill from Le Pavillon. It is adjacent to the Cameron winery, and was planted in 1996, the year that Jay established the J. Christopher label. He was working at Cameron at that time, and he remains the first and only winemaker ever to produce wine from Charlie's.

This vineyard always produces wines that have very earth-driven aromatics, a fine mineral structure and a stony purity of fruit. The 2009 shows this with an elegance that is extraordinary, given the high ripeness from such a warm vintage.

Total production: 125 cases.

PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

"Fragrant black raspberries, exotic spices, incense and sandalwood inform the nose of a succulent, plush, layered Pinot that deftly combines depth, concentration, and elegance, the secret to success in 2009." [94 points]

—Jay Miller, Wine Advocate (Oct. 2011)

"Jay Somers is easily one of Oregon's best winemakers."

— Matt Kramer

www.jchristopherwines.com

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