

# J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

## 2009 DUNDEE HILLS PINOT NOIR



*The Bella Vida vineyard in the Red Hills of Dundee.*

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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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This cuvée is a blend of selected barrels from several excellent vineyard sites in the red Jory clay of the Dundee Hills AVA. It shows the depth and power that are typical of this area, and makes a very interesting comparison to the "Nuages" cuvée from the thinner, rockier soil of the Chehalem Mountains AVA. The 2009 vintage includes barrels from Bella Vida, Baptista Maresh, Charlie's, Abbey Ridge and Le Pavillon vineyards.

The 2009 Dundee Hills Cuvée has a high-toned element to the aroma that is characteristic of the vintage. It was a warm vintage with big ripeness, so the wines have a floral touch to them and a lovely scent of dried herbs. This has the full density and power that is typical of the Red Hills. It has a pure, mineral-driven intensity that provides a solid framework for the complex fruit and seamless texture.

The 2009 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir spent 20 months in barrel.

Total production: 450 cases.

### PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

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

— Matt Kramer

[www.jchristopherwines.com](http://www.jchristopherwines.com)

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