

J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

2009 LE PAVILLON PINOT NOIR



Le Pavillon vineyard in the Dundee Hills.

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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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Le Pavillon is an outstanding vineyard in the heart of the Dundee Hills. It was planted in 1972 and consistently yields the darkest, most dense wines that we produce. The deep, red volcanic clay (called Jory) gives the wine a depth and richness that is unmatched, yet with a focused, well-knit structure that keeps it from getting too heavy. This is the masculine counterpart to the delicate, floral wines from the Abbey Ridge vineyard.

The 2009 vintage is full of dark and brooding fruit. The ripeness and concentration resemble that of dried fruits or fruit leather. It is massive in texture, but with excellent acid balance. Its great acidity and tannin structure ensure this wine's ability to age.

The 2009 Le Pavillon Pinot Noir spent 20 months in barrel.

Total production: 60 cases.

PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

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

www.jchristopherwines.com