

J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

2009 SANDRA ADELE PINOT NOIR



The extraordinary Abbey Ridge 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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The J. Christopher Sandra Adele Pinot Noir is a cuvée named for Jay's mother, Sandy. Typically it is a blend of fruit from two outstanding vineyards in the Dundee Hills AVA: Abbey Ridge and Charlie's Vineyard. In 2009, Jay added a bit of fruit from the Bella Vida vineyard, also in the Dundee Hills. The final blend of the 2009 ended up with 70% Abbey Ridge, 20% Charlie's Vineyard and 10% Bella Vida.

This wine is the elegant, feminine counterpart to the bigger, more masculine wine from Le Pavillon. It shows the delicate mineral and floral aroma that is characteristic of the high-elevation Abbey Ridge vineyard. The palate, too, reflects the fine minerality and finesse of this great site. If Oregon had a vineyard classification, Abbey Ridge would unquestionably top the list of grand cru sites.

The 2009 Sandra Adele Pinot Noir spent 20 months in barrel.

Total production: 140 cases.

PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

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

www.jchristopherwines.com