

Aging wine

building a fourth dimension

In the appreciation of wine, we always want more. We want to know details, experience the lifestyle, and be ahead of others in discovering future epiphanies. Many people understand the beauty, versatility and magic of Pinot Noir freshly released from their favorite winery and currently on wine shelves. But few people understand what an older wine should taste like and the oohs and aahs of ultimate pleasure that result from the experience of drinking a bottle held by someone for years.

"One of the dimensions of fine wine that is often overlooked is bottle development."

- Harry Peterson-Nedry

As a wine ages, it gains a 4th Dimension. Restaurants rarely have cellars to supply an authentic Reserve List. Retail bottle shops often have wines no older than last week's delivery. Gone are the days when dust and cobwebs were wiped away to find a "special" wine for you in either place. Sadly, gone also is the ability to see a different spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and nuances found only in aged wines. But this doesn't have to be the case. RR wines were built to age gracefully. Delicious now, these bottles will only improve with time, as evidenced by the stunning array of library wines we've just released to the public.





2016 RR Pinot Noir

Ridgecrest Vineyards Ribbon Ridge AVA Willamette Valley Oregon

Vintage Notes

This is the year of Earliest Ever. The winter was warm, budbreak was early and 2016 never looked back—bloom, veraison, and harvest all early records, beginning harvest in August and done before October. Although early, the growing season wasn't as hot as the prior three, but still in the same new, warm norm. Fruit is fully ripe but not overripe, with moderate alcohols, good enough acids and intense, easily extracted, dense wines, from 15% smaller berry sizes and yields. Potentially an excellent-to-classic vintage. Finally dialed back a little from the 2014-2015 twins.

An All-Time Favorite

Small berries and concentrated, 15% lower crop levels caused many a smile when tasting early fermentations from this vintage. Bottle evolution has been slow, and steady. We find ourselves tempted to check back with this wine more often than necessary, just to experience the next set of beautiful flavors in motion. This wine is quickly positioning itself as one of our all-time favorites.

90 points - *Wine Spectator*

Tasting Notes

A brilliant deep garnet color greets you on the entry, with a lush ripe nose of smoky tea leaf, gingerbread, black cherry and bramble. The palate is perfectly balanced, showing dark chocolate and plums, cassis liqueur, and a resinous cigar-box aspect, finishing with a strong acid backbone and chewy tannins typical of Ribbon Ridge that need time and aging. This wine needs more time to truly express its full complexity, but the many years of potential is there as we scratch the surface upon its release.

Technical Data

Alcohol - 13.9%

TA - 6.5 g/L

pH - 3.42

Production - 449 cases

Release - November 2018

Drink - now - 2034

