

ROCO WINERY

2020 PINOT NERO BIANCO

ABOUT PINOT NERO BIANCO

We used a gentle sparkling wine pressing method to extract juice from the heart of the Pinot Noir berry to create this Pinot Nero Bianco wine. We then barrel ferment the juice to add complexity to the fruit flavors.

2020 VINTAGE NOTES

Spring was classic Willamette Valley - cold and wet, which limited the grape's ability to get pollinated. We saw a much smaller than normal crop set, but these can be extraordinary vintages (88, 89, 90, 94, 98, 00, 04, 08, 10, etc.).

The ripening period was deliciously temperate and promised exciting results! Ripe, bold flavored grapes with perfect acidity we thought were destined to become one of the best vintages of the 2000's! BUT, this is the Willamette Valley where Mother Nature always gets the last laugh. We normally get a short period of east winds off the dry, warm Eastern Oregon/Washington regions, bringing super dry winds pouring out the Columbia River Gorge into the Willamette Valley. These usually only last a day or so (longest I remember was 2014).

Disaster strikes! Fires in the Northern Cascades of Oregon flared up, then fires in Chehalem Mountains, north of Gaston, and even coastal fires near Lincoln City led to an inescapable blanket of smoke for the entirety of the Willamette Valley. Smoke led to smoke taint in the skins of our wine grapes.

After 30+ years of Willamette winemaking, this was the most stressful vintage of my career. ROCO pivoted to reduce its red wine production and made its first white pinot noir (eliminates skin extraction). The smoke molecules adhere to the skin of wine grapes. Red wines rely on grape skins for flavor and color. Thus, red wines are the most affected by smoke issues.

Our whites and sparkling wines are a wonder to behold and will serve as a reminder of what could have been for the vintage's Pinot noir.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

"The new Pinot Nero Bianco (white Pinot noir) has a delightful watermelon juice color. On the nose you experience a bouquet of plum and white grapefruit blossoms, Fruilano and quince, alongside aromas of pear and starfruit. The flavor is a lively mix

VARIETAL: 100% Pinot Noir

APPELLATION: Willamette Valley AVA

VINEYARDS: Wits' End Vineyard

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

PRODUCTION: 100 cases

RETAIL: \$35/bottle

