



WHITES

La Combe Verte Chardonnay, Willamette Valley 2019

The impact of the pandemic on the wine industry has led more than a few top tier wineries to offer exceptional wines at bargain prices (relative to their past catalog). Here's one—a compendium of Willamette Valley grapes in a sculpted, vivid, sappy and accessible Chardonnay. Well-balanced apple, citrus, melon and white peach fruit are nicely ripened, blended and balanced. Drink now and over the next half decade.

92 pts- Paul Gregutt, Editors' Choice, Wine Enthusiast, June 2021

Rock Salt Chardonnay, Willamette Valley 2019

Nutty and bright, with a lemony less scent and yes, salty minerality (the name comes from another version of this cuvée, which a friend described as "crunchy salt"). This is blend of fruit from four vineyards, Freedom Hill, Justice, Seven Springs and Koosgah; it's taut and sinewy, bound up by lees and lemony citrus notes, the flavors crunch and bright, perhaps more immediate than some of the winery's other chardonnay offerings.

93 pts- Wine & Spirits Magazine, October 2021

X Saxa Vineyard Aligoté, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

This is the first Aligoté from Walter Scott, a grape as rare as alligators in Oregon. Deliciously sappy, with tart but not sour lemon and citrus flesh and rind, it gathers itself nicely on the midpalate and lingers there gracefully. It was aged in neutral oak for 10 months and put through full malolactic fermentation. The balance and precision are exactly right, and the finish lasts for an amazingly long time.

93 pts- Paul Gregutt, Editors' Choice, Wine Enthusiast, June 2021

Cuvée Anne Chardonnay, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

Cuvée Anne now uses only Eola-Amity Hills fruit from a variety of vineyards. Pahlow aggressively thinned shoot to reduce yield and picked early. The wine is aged for a year in barrel followed by an additional 4-5 months in tank. The result is lemony and very fine, with a reductive, smoky element, a pronounced saline edge, and yet enough passionfruit and floral aroma to fill the wine out nicely. The wine is laser-focused, but not lacking depth, and it should age exceptionally well. Drink 2021-2031.

94 pts- Charles Curtis MW, Decanter, September 24, 2021

The following has reviewed this wine:

94 pts- Wine & Spirits Magazine, October 2021

Seven Springs Vineyard Chardonnay, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

Ken Pahlow at Walter Scott has his blocks at Seven Springs aggressively shoot thinned to lower yields, and is among the first to pick, following his Burgundian mentors. The result is compelling. There are aromas of peach and citrus with a bit of mineral and spice and a fair amount of reduction. On the palate, the texture is silky and very fine with a waxy, dense texture and impressive length. The wine ended up at just 12.8% alcohol, although it feels richer than this. A masterful effort. Drink 2021-2031.

96 pts- Charles Curtis MW, Decanter, September 24, 2021

The following has also reviewed this wine:

91 pts- Wine & Spirits Magazine, September 24, 2021

X Novo Vineyard Chardonnay, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

The Chardonnay from Craig Williams' X Novo vineyard is a triumph. Winemaker Ken Pahlow has the vines on his block trimmed to one cluster per shoot to reduce yields dramatically. He ferments the wine with native yeasts and the majority of the lees and ages it over two winters with very little new wood. The result has aromas of apricot and peach accented with citrus notes. The texture is fresh and supple, with a mineral depth that comes out on the lingering finish. Drink 2021-2031.

95 pts- Charles Curtis MW, Decanter, September 24, 2021

The following has reviewed this wine:

95 pts- Wine & Spirits Magazine, October 2021

Freedom Hill Vineyard Chardonnay, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

Walter Scott is able to source two hectares of fruit from the sedimentary soils of the Freedom Hill vineyard, including some of the older vines. The site is warm, yet Pahlow's reductive handling of the wine shows a bright, fresh character. The aromas are ripe apricots and quince with a bit of citrus and a saline quality that is very attractive. The ripeness of Freedom Hill endows the wine with impressive density and length, yet everything remains in perfect balance. Drink 2021-2031.

95 pts- Charles Curtis MW, Decanter, September 24, 2021

Lucille Chardonnay, Willamette Valley 2019

The 2019 Chardonnay Lucille is a new wine from Walter Scott, named for Ken Pahlow and Erica Landon's daughter Lucy. Pahlow made this wine a bit differently than the others in his portfolio, using 65% new oak, generous free sulfur and a Diam 30 cork. "If Burgundy gets a pass to tuck wines away for ten years, why don't we get a pass," he quips. The Lucille takes some time to blossom on the nose, segueing from flint and roasted almonds to delicate apricot, lemon preserves and loads of spice and herbal undertones. Powerful yet seamless, the medium-bodied palate has electric acidity, a satiny, mouth-coating texture, a concentrated core of preserved citrus and a long, latent finish. Purchase a case and follow it over the next 10-15 years or more. Drink date 2023-2035.

97 pts- Erin Brooks, The Wine Advocate, March 2023

REDS

Sojeau Vineyard Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

According to Ken Pahlow, Sojeau is the ‘Musigny of Eola-Amity Hills’. Planted to Pinot Noir clones Pommard, Wädenswil, and 115, this unique site is incredibly rocky. It has been certified organic for twelve years, and the high altitude produces wines of lovely tension and power. This vintage has an expressive pomegranate and raspberry note with high-toned floral notes and a mineral edge. Yet, despite all the fruit, the wine retains immense finesse, elegance, and plenty of structure. Drink 2021-2031.

97 pts- Charles Curtis MW, Decanter, September 23, 2021

The following has also reviewed this wine:

94 pts- Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

94 pts- Wine & Spirits, 100 Top Wineries, Fall 2022

La Combe Verte Vineyard Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley 2019

This wine was aggressively youthful when tasted in December, wearing the funk of its reduction like a merit badge; with air, it became vibrant, beautifully structured, as exuberant as gamay, lively and sappy in its freshness. And it's a steal.

92 pts- Best Buy, Wine & Spirits, April 2021

The following has also reviewed this wine:

91 pts- Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

91 pts- Paul Gregutt, Wine Enthusiast, June 2021

“Cuvée Ruth” Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

This is a dark, youthful, spicy wine packed densely with black fruits. Blackberries, black cherries and black currants are all in play, with a frame of lightly toasty, textured tannins. The impeccable balance rests upon pinpoint acidity, and with its muscular structure and overall density this is a candidate for a decade of aging. Drink through 2030.

93 pts- Paul Gregutt, Cellar Selection, Wine Enthusiast, June 2021

The following has also reviewed this wine:

92 pts- Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

92 pts- Wine & Spirits, April 2022

Bacocho Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

Medium ruby-purple, the 2019 Pinot Noir Bacocho is pure and expressive. A core of briary fruit is complemented by autumnal scents of mossy bark, woodsmoke and cinnamon stick, and it continues to reveal aromatic detail as it spends time in the glass. The medium-bodied palate has a seamless structure, its power derived from layer after layer of spicy fruit that glides into a nuanced finish. Drink date 2024-2035.

98 pts- Erin Brooks, The Wine Advocate, March 2023

X-Novo Vineyard Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

Walter Scott gets all of X Novo's pinot noir, eight barrels' worth, from this tiny vineyard. Tasted last fall and again more recently, it's a wine that reveals itself slowly, yielding an herbaceous lacework of flavors, thyme and sage, then penetrating red fruits—red, cherry, red plum—at once concentrated and fresh, luminous, full of flavor, devoid of weight.

96 pts- Wine & Spirits, Top 100 Wineries, Fall 2022

Deep magenta. High-pitched, finely detailed aromas of raspberry, boysenberry and blood orange, along with suave floral and exotic spice flourishes. Seamless and energetic in the mouth, offering vibrant red and blue fruit, spicecake and candied rose flavors and a hint of licorice. The floral and spice notes drive an impressively long finish, which features polished tannins and a snap of smoky minerality.

95 pts- Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills 2019

Brilliant red. Spice-accented raspberry and cherry on the expressive nose, along with suggestions of candied flowers and succulent herbs. Vibrant red fruit preserve, floral pastille and licorice flavors show excellent clarity and deepen with air. Well-judged, even tannins build steadily on an impressively long, penetrating finish that echoes the raspberry and floral notes.

93 pts- Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley 2019

The Dusschee family farm a hilltop in the Coast Range, a distinctive vineyard on Bellpine sedimentary soils, one that helped make the case for the Willamette Valley's newest AVA, Mt. Pisgah. This wine is cool and vinous when first poured, with smoky, savory and foresty tannins, a wild berry core of fruit lying beneath; tasting it, I had an image of Cos Vougeot on a foggy winter morning. The fruit takes on a deeper cast with air, a dark cherry cloud, concentrated but transparent.

95 pts- Wine & Spirits, Top 100 Wineries, Fall 2022

Vivid ruby-red. Sharply defined red fruit, floral and baking spice aromas pick up pungent earth and mineral flourishes with air. Shows distinctly elegant character, offering appealingly sweet raspberry, kirsch, candied rose and spicecake flavors and a hint of smokiness. The red fruit and spice notes repeat emphatically on a strikingly long, energetic finish that's given shape by discreet, late-arriving tannins.

95 pts- Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

Sequitur Vineyard Pinot Noir, Ribbon Ridge 2019

Deep garnet. Pungent aromas of dried cherry, musky flowers and earth, along with hints of exotic spices and smoked meat. Gently chewy, penetrating blackberry, bitter cherry and fruitcake flavors are supported by a core of juicy acidity. The spice and floral notes drive a long, sappy finish that features sneaky tannins and a lingering suggestion of cherry cola.

93 pts- Josh Raynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022