

Belle Pente

Willamette Valley



Belle Pente Vineyard Pinot Noir, Yamill-Carlton 2018

The 2018 Belle Pente Vineyard bottling of pinot noir from Brian O'Donnell is a beautiful wine in the making. This vineyard was densely-planted in 1994 and is starting to "come of age" these days, with the 2018 bottling here coming in at 14.2 percent alcohol in this ripe vintage and delivering a superb bouquet of red plums, pomegranate, cherries, gamebird, a beautiful foundation of soil tones, fresh nutmeg, woodsmoke, a deft framing of nutty oak and a topnote of cocoa powder. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied, focused and complex, with the start of a velvety attack, a lovely core of pure fruit, fine soil signature and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, nascently complex and very elegant finish. These are younger vines than the Murto Vineyard bottling, so they do not have quite the same mid-palate volume, but they make up for this with beautiful transparency and inner mouth perfume. Fine, fine juice. 2028-2065+.

93+ pts –John Gilman, View from the Cellar, May-September-October 2021

The following has also reviewed this wine:

93 pts –Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

Belle Pente Vineyard Estate Reserve Pinot Noir, Yamill-Carlton 2018

Saturated magenta. Spice-accented raspberry, cherry and boysenberry aromas, along with hints of star anise, incense and candied flowers. Silky and energetic on the palate, offering concentrated, spice-laced red and blue fruit and floral pastille flavors that turn sweeter as the wine opens up. Fine-grained tannins lend shape to an extremely long, finely detailed finish that shows excellent clarity and reverberating florality.

94 pts –Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022

The following has also reviewed this wine:

93 pts –John Gilman, View from the Cellar, March-April 2023

Murto Vineyard Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills 2018

The Murto Vineyard was planted back in 1978, so these vines are in their prime at forty years of age in this vintage. The bottling this year comes in at 14.1 percent octane and offers up a strikingly beautiful and sappy nose of plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, violets, a beautiful base of soil tones, woodsmoke and a lovely framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full, with lovely focus and grip, a suave chassis of ripe tannin, tangy acids and great balance on the long, complex and very sophisticated finish. Great juice in the making, but this wine will need some hibernation in the cellar to soften up those fine-grained tannins and really start to hit on all cylinders. 2028-2065+.

94- pts –John Gilman, View from the Cellar, May-September-October 2021

The following has also reviewed this wine:

94 pts –Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, February 2022