

Beaux Frères



Whilst on holiday in 1986, Michael Etzel came upon an 88-acre pig farm for sale located on Ribbon Ridge in the Northern Willamette Valley, Yamhill County, Oregon. After some deliberation, Michael purchased the farm with his brother-in-law (the French idiom is “beaux frères”), Robert Parker, Jr.

Michael uprooted his young family from Colorado and moved to the farm the following summer. He began his focused pursuit as a vineyard manager by planting only Pinot Noir and slowly transforming the old pig and dairy farm into his jewel. Whilst planting his own vineyard, Michael worked four harvests at Ponzi Winery. In 1990, Michael harvested his first crop and sold the grapes, except enough to make one barrel, to winemakers Ken Wright and Dick Ponzi.

In 1991, a renovation of one of the barns led to the creation of Beaux Frères Winery. With each new vintage, Michael’s efforts further unveil his pursuit of Pinot Noir that is the purest expression of the vineyard.

The Beaux Frères Vineyard is located on an 88-acre farm atop

Ribbon Ridge, near Newberg (Yamhill County). Tall and stately Douglas fir trees cover nearly 50 acres of the farm, with homestead and winery buildings occupying another eight acres. The vineyard is situated on 30 acres (24 of which are planted) of steep, contiguous southeast, south and southwest facing hillsides of Willakenzie soils, at elevations of around 400 feet. Planting began in 1988, with tightly planted Pinot Noir vines spaced at a density of about 2200 plants to the acre. The oldest vines in the vineyard are now a seasoned 31 years of age, and the vineyard is a mixture of own-rooted Pommard and Wädenswil clones and younger Dijon clones on phylloxera-resistant rootstocks.



The Upper Terrace Vineyard, just north and of slightly higher elevation from the Beaux Frères Vineyard, was first planted in 2000. It is comprised of Dijon clones of Pinot Noir covering about nine acres of the 40-acre site - the rest densely forested and lush with flora and fauna.

The beginning of the vintage cycle coincides roughly with the beginning of the calendar year. The winter months involve pruning the vine and the selection of a new fruiting cane. The vines are spaced at a density of about 2200 - 3200 plants to the acre and are trained in the single-Guyot method, with one fruiting cane per

their own cuttings, and take great care to observe and connect with the vines regularly.

In the spring of 2017, the second-generation winery began a new partnership with the eighth generation of Maisons & Domaines Henriot.

The Wines

Willamette Valley

The Willamette Valley at Ribbon Ridge was established in 2005 with 800 acres of vines. The vineyards have a lower elevation, allowing it to be shielded from winds, resulting in warmer temperatures and less rainfall.

IMAGES This page - Left - Cristina Pinot Noir, the icon wine of Marimar Estate. Right - Marimar Torres in her home at Sitges, Spain. Opposite page - Marimar Estate winery, at the Russian River Valley.



Beaux Frères began exploring biodynamic farming ... leading the way to a symbiotic relationship with the landscape

vine tied horizontally along the fruiting wire at about 24 inches above the ground. This is the season that we break open the soil to let it breathe. Compost and various soil amendments may be spread during this time.

Beaux Frères began exploring biodynamic farming, finding that by avoiding commercial sprays in favour of gentle tonics like dandelion and stinging nettle tea, leads the way to a symbiotic relationship with the landscape. They compost on-site, graft

100% Pinot Noir sourced from the following vineyards for the 2016

- Gran Moraine: 29%
- Hyland: 19%
- Sequitur: 18%
- Dupee Valley: 12%
- Jesse James: 8%
- Starling: 6%
- Zena Crown: 4%
- Beaux Frères: 4%

Zena Crown

The Zena Crown vineyard is known as one of the most prestigious single vineyard estates in the Willamette Valley. Positioned on a southwest facing slope of weathered volcanic soils, Zena Crown Vineyard is clustered amidst the most historic vineyards of the Eola-Amity Hills and is planted with Dijon clones of Pinot Noir on Riparia Gloire rootstock.

Beaux Frères Vineyard

This single estate wine comes from the most prestigious terroir in Willamette Valley and is at the very heart of Beaux Frères.

Upper Terrace

The Upper Terrace Vineyard, just north and a bit higher elevation from the Beaux Frères Vineyard, was first planted in 2000. It is comprised of Dijon clones of Pinot Noir covering about 9 acres of the 40-acre site-the rest is densely forested. The vines are spaced one-meter apart in rows six-feet wide with one fruiting cane per vine, tied horizontally along the fruiting wire at about 24 inches above the ground. Beaux Frères has had biodynamic and organic practices since 2002.

IMAGES This page - Bottom left - Hugel vineyard autumn leaves. Top right - Famille Hugel shop sign. Bottom right - Hugel Headquarters and shop. Opposite page - Above - Riquewahr Dolder Clock tower. Below- (left to right): André, Marc-André, Jean-Frédéric, Jean-Philippe, Etienne and Marc Hugel.

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