

“The wildness of any great vintage, when it comes to cool-climate winegrowing, has to include some adversity, some sunshine, and varying degrees of hard work.”

Beaux Frères

VINTAGE 2022 | INTO THE WILD

“This unique terrain has earned the attention of wine collectors worldwide, and we are both proud and humbled by that responsibility.”



2022 BEAUX FRÈRES | THE BEAUX FRÈRES VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

We look to our flagship site to understand the narrative of a new vintage. The 2022 wines — from yet another growing season without easy parallel — kept us on the edge of our seats from budbreak to bottling. We ended up with a small, exceptionally cellar worthy bottling (amounting to 30% less than average volume) of which we are immensely fond already.

Not until our December '23 review of the wines did we realize this is quite possibly the most intricately layered wine the vineyard has ever produced, with further promise to reveal its mysteries in the years to come.

WINERY NOTES, DECEMBER '23: *Sage, cedar, blueberry scone and strawberry compote. Drink from 2025 through 2040.*



2022 BEAUX FRÈRES | WILLAMETTE VALLEY PINOT NOIR

This ensemble cuvée features a choir of eight vineyards across four distinct viticultural areas. Ever the crowd-pleaser, it continues to showcase complexity borne from the breadth and character of Willamette Valley terroir since its first vintage in 2005.

Due to the low volume from our signature estates in 2022, we are pleased to make this cuvée available in our pre-release offering for the first time in many years.

WINERY NOTES, DECEMBER '23: *Generous profile of red tea, baking spices, black raspberry, and candied cherry. Drink now through 2032.*



2022 BEAUX FRÈRES | WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHARDONNAY

This old-world-inspired Chardonnay, which we officially began making in 2009, has been a source of growing excitement throughout its evolution at Beaux Frères. The 2022 vintage delivers perhaps our most precise expression of this delicate varietal to date.

Even at this early stage, the wine shows depth and softness woven neatly around an expansive, bright, and richly textured core; the compelling whispers of a great Meursault.

WINERY NOTES, DECEMBER '23: *Beeswax, lemon bar, apricot, and mango mochi. Drink now through 2032.*

VOL. XXIX



VINTAGE 2022

“We need the tonic of wildness...”
Henry David Thoreau

Dear Beaux Frères Collectors,

There's an impressive Douglas Fir along the gravel road up to Beaux Frères Vineyard that our family once considered cutting for a Christmas tree. It's now 50+ feet tall. With its community of bugs and birds, that tree is among many lining the Beaux Frères Vineyard today that benefit not only our ecosystem, but also our wine.

Aside from the diversity of our flora and fauna, wildness is in our family DNA. Echoes of that story dot every bit of these 88 acres. From the stranded old Volkswagen bug now overgrown with moss, lodged in the same corner of the vineyard where my wife Lorene and I were married years later, to my dad's infamous “troll trail” hike that meanders from Beaux Frères to The Upper Terrace (crossing our new Bridge Vineyard property as opposed to trespassing through it these days, but more on that another time).

The wildness of any great vintage, when it comes to cool-climate winegrowing, has to include some adversity, some sunshine, and varying degrees of hard work. Even in the easiest growing seasons, the level of urgency we maintain reflects our gratitude for the incredible terrain on which our quality relies, first and foremost.

There are no lazy vintages. I was born in 1986, the same year my family moved to Oregon, and my second birthday coincides with the first planting of vines at Beaux Frères. I've learned that decisions all year determine our success; how we adapt along the way based on our changing environment and resources available to us. It's no secret that I share my dad's appreciation for the wild ride that is farming, especially with Pinot Noir, “the fickle grape,” as our muse.

At least in retrospect, the only thing we love more than a nice easy vintage is one that's hard-fought. That's because Pinot Noir is uniquely capable of expressing a story of graceful transcendence above turmoil. Especially when we choose our impositions carefully in the vineyard (as well as in the cellar), the best vintages have beauty marks. As for now, we still embrace, although very cautiously, the extreme weather conditions that we are facing recently and particularly in this 2022 vintage.

This unique terrain has earned the attention of wine collectors worldwide, and we are both proud and humbled by that responsibility.

Thank you for joining us on this wine adventure year after year,

MIKE D. ETZEL

CEO | 2ND GENERATION WINEGROWER

ONE FOR THE AGES

HARVEST TIMELINE: After bud break in late March, the Willamette Valley received an arguably unprecedented frost event in mid-April (though some still claim that the 1984 ‘Mother’s Day Massacre’ was worse). Depending on the block, the Beaux Frères Vineyard lost 50-75% of its primary buds, followed by unseasonably cold and consistently heavy rains that continued until June 20th.

The remainder of the growing season was dry with delightfully pleasant, moderate temperatures overall. Cluster counts were down, but their size made up for a lot of the diminished bud counts. Harvest began at the estate on October 1st and finished on October 15th. Fortunately, we received just 0.4 inches (10mm) of rain through the completion of harvest, an especially ideal development during the home stretch of the growing season in October.



VINTAGE ADAPTATIONS: Due to thick skins (potentially the positive result of vine stress), we reduced time in the vat to promote supple tannins. We also decreased the number of extraction treatments and use of whole clusters to preserve the finesse and balance of the vintage.

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT: We saw elegance, freshness, and red-toned fruit in the barreled wines. Based on our perceptions in the earliest stages of harvest, the profile of the wines convinced us to increase the use of new oak barrels by 10%. For a stylistic comparison, the 2022 vintage is akin to the classic 2008; another one for the ages that will stand the test of time in cellars over decades.



ABOVE:
Our 2022 vintage production crew
COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
The infamous “troll trail”; Mike D. Etzel,
2nd generation winegrower; The treeline
along the NW corner of our flagship vineyard;
The Volkswagen bug in its resting place; Our
beloved and dearly missed friend, Earl, in his
final vintage with us (2007 - 2022)

