

2006 TUENGE PINOT NOIR



"Sinful and inviting aromas of caramel, black cherry and cedar characterize the debut vintage of our Tuenge Pinot Noir. Pomegranate and warm baking spices satisfy the palate, yielding to a clean, fruit finish. Patience will reward you with this age-worthy treasure. Drink from 2009-2018."

GARY HORNER, ERATH WINEMAKER

APPELLATION: CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS

VINEYARDS: TUENGE VINEYARD

CLONES: 115

BARREL REGIME: 14 MONTHS AGED IN 100% FRENCH OAK, 40% NEW

HARVEST: SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

T.A.: 0.51GM/100ML

pH: 3.74

ALCOHOL: 14.2%

VINEYARD OVERVIEW

Tuenge (pronounced "tongue-GEE") Vineyard is located on the eastern flank of the northern boundary of the Chehalem Mountains (pronounced "Sha-HAY-lum") AVA. Chehalem Mountains is one of Oregon's newest AVAs (est. 2007), but its winegrowing history dates back to 1968 when Dick Erath purchased 49 acres and aptly called the property Chehalem Mountain Vineyards. By the mid to late 1970s, there was a patchwork of vineyards in the area, and over the next 30 years many notable winegrowers planted roots in the area.

Tuenge sits at a 350-foot elevation on Laurelwood soil, a complex, brown, silty soil made of ancient decomposed volcanic material topped with wind-blown loess and Missoula Flood sediment. The rich mineral content of the Laurelwood soil, the temperate climate, and elevation create an environment that is ideal to bring out the complex, red fruit flavors of Pinot Noir.

VINTAGE OVERVIEW

A favorable, mild and dry spring resulted in an exceptional fruit set. Through the summer and fall, the weather conditions remained advantageous and the fruit continued to develop under warm and dry conditions punctuated with brief heat spikes. The warm weather continued through September and October which significantly condensed the harvest period.

Cooler and slightly wet conditions arrived in late September as sugar levels began to soar, the delayed rains allowed the fruit to develop mature flavors and achieve optimum ripeness. The 2006 vintage produced red wines displaying a rounded intensity of pure fruit, acid and tannin.

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