



2009 Knight's Gambit Pinot Noir

"A comforting nose of spiced berry cobbler melds intriguingly with exotic wafts of Mexican chocolate and sensual cedar. Rich flavors of kirsch-drenched black forest cake and spiced mocha finish with a zesty and resonant high note."

Gary Horner, Erath Winemaker

VINEYARD OVERVIEW

Plantings at Knight's Gambit vineyard began in 1988 with the most recent plantings completed in 2004. Today the vineyard contains about 34 acres planted on Jory soil, it spans 600-950 feet in elevation, and contains seven individual blocks based on clone, soil conditions and slope. There are also several microclimates within the vineyard. The lower elevation area was planted in 1988 and contains clones 115, 777 and Pommard. In 2004 additional 777 and Pommard clones were planted the higher elevation, these vines ripen a bit later than the lower elevation vines but still retain their bright acidity. This site consistently produces high quality fruit characterized by fresh red fruit characters; it is often a component of our Estate Selection Pinot Noir, as well as a stand-alone single vineyard wines.

APPELLATION
Dundee Hills

VINEYARD
Knight's Gambit

CLONES
777, 115, Pommard

BARREL REGIME
15 months, 40% new French oak

HARVEST
October 5th, 2009

T.A.
0.61gm/100mL

PH
3.62

ALCOHOL
14.5%

CASES PRODUCED
230

VINTAGE OVERVIEW

The road leading up to the superb 2009 vintage presented a challenging set of unique growing conditions. Bud break arrived on April 15th, approximately ten days later than average. Low temperatures and high humidity between the last week of June and the second week of July put the vines at high risk of developing mold and mildew. Temperatures exceeded 105 degrees during the last week of July caused excessive vine stress at certain vineyards. Fortunately, a warm but not hot late September and early October ensured full maturity and excellent varietal character. Despite early indications, the 2009 harvest commenced slightly earlier than the historic average yet completed on the same date the 2008 vintage began further putting into prospective vintage to vintage variability, just one of our region's many strengths.