

Technical Notes

2021 RHAPSODY PINOT BLANC WILLAMETTE VALLEY AVA

*Named for George Gershwin's
"Rhapsody in Blue"*

Retail: \$32



Production:	114 Cases				
Clones:	50% Pinot Blanc - 14-year vines (Plum Hill Vineyard) 50% Pinot Blanc - 18-year vines (Elkhorn Ridge Vineyards)				
Soils:	Jory (Plum Hill) Willakenzie (Elkhorn Ridge)				
Harvest:	Sept. 22, 2021 (Plum Hill) Oct. 7, 2021 (Elkhorn Ridge)				
Harvest Brix:	22.1 (average)				
Cooperage:	Aged sur lie 6 months				
Bottled:	February 28, 2022	Released:	March 15, 2022		
Alcohol:	12.9%	pH:	3.43	TA:	5.6 g/L

The Willamette Valley's 2021 growing season presented unique challenges. We experienced a three-day "heat dome" in June, with record temperatures hovering around 115-degrees during berry development. The result was a profusion of small berries and small cluster weights, driving significant color and flavor intensity. While we thought this might mean lower yields, that proved not to be the case. The rest of the summer was warm and dry, and harvest was quite spread out—some vineyards ripened earlier than anticipated and some later. The resulting wines are luscious and complex with fruit-driven flavors and balanced acidity.

In 2021 we doubled our production of Pinot Blanc by adding 1.44 tons harvested from a 0.28-acre block in Elkhorn Ridge Vineyards in Monmouth, Oregon to fruit we've sourced from Plum Hill Vineyard in Gaston, Oregon since 2017. These two sites are located at opposite ends of the Willamette Valley AVA—interestingly, the more northern Plum Hill site ripened three weeks ahead of the more southern Elkhorn Ridge site.

Lithe and lively, Rhapsody fermented and aged on lees for six months, producing a food-friendly, fuller-bodied wine. No malolactic fermentation enhances its crisp acidity, subtle minerality and spicy character.



BELLS UP
WINERY

Micro-boutique, un-domaine and always open by appointment, Bells Up composes Oregon Pinot Noir, Rosé, Pinot Blanc, Seyval Blanc, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon from our estate vineyard and micro-sites in the Willamette Valley and Eastern Oregon. Established in 2013, our first wines were released Memorial Day 2015. We make ~500 cases annually.

The 9-acre estate in the Chehalem Mountains AVA is being planted in phases. Three acres of Pommard and Clone 667 were planted spring 2014 with 1,000 plants in these two blocks field grafted to Clones 115 and 777 in Spring 2021; the Willamette Valley's first planting of a 0.5-acre of Seyval Blanc in spring 2015; and 2.5 acres of Wadenswil, 113 and 943 planted in spring 2016. The first estate harvest was fall 2017. In fall 2020 and 2021 the Seyval Blanc block was expanded to meet demand. An obscure Northern Italian varietal was planted in fall 2020 in a new 0.5-acre block. Pinot Blanc (0.75-acre) was planted in fall 2021.

The name "Bells Up" refers to a dramatic moment in a classical music score instructing French horn players to raise their instruments' bells and project sound with maximum intensity. Winemaker and owner Dave Specter—a French horn player for 20+ years—calls the winery his "Bells Up" moment.

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