

# Technical Notes

## 2023 HELIOS ESTATE SEYVAL BLANC CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS AVA

*Named for Carl Nielsen's  
"Helios Overture, Opus 18"*

Retail: \$38



Production:	34 Cases				
Clones:	100% Seyval Blanc - 8-year vines				
Soils:	Jory				
Harvest:	September 24, 2023				
Harvest Brix:	20.7				
Cooperage:	Aged sur lie 6 months				
Bottled:	March 1, 2024	Released:	March 7, 2024		
Alcohol:	12.3%	pH:	3.27	TA:	6.7 g/L

The 2023 growing season was yet another reminder that the Willamette Valley can be full of surprises. An unseasonably cool and wet winter and early spring delayed budbreak until the very beginning of May—about 2 weeks later than normal. Summer was warmer than average and dry as usual... But the real surprise came in early September, when we realized that harvest in the Northern Willamette Valley (where our estate vineyard is located) would actually be three weeks earlier than we anticipated! This resulted in one of the shortest growing seasons we've experienced in our 12 harvests in this region.

We are proud to have the Willamette Valley's first planting of Seyval Blanc (and just the second in Oregon). It grows in a 0.75-acre block on the west side of our estate vineyard at approximately 500 feet elevation. The 2023 Helios is our sixth harvest of these vines, originally planted in spring 2015 with subsequent expansions to the block in fall 2020 and fall 2021.

Fuller bodied, Helios is aged sur lie for six months to produce a creamy texture. No malolactic fermentation yields balanced acidity mingled with earthiness and tropical fruit characteristics.



**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 ~600 cases annually.

The 9-acre estate in the Chehalem Mountains AVA is being planted in phases. Three acres of Pommard and Dijon 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. Schioppettino 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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