

2017 PONZI AURORA PINOT NOIR

JAMES SUCKLING 92 | WINE ADVOCATE 92



“ This exotic nose of Mexican spiced chocolate, roasted coffee, smoked meat and Cherrywood lead to a blue fruited mouth reminiscent of cola, amareno cherries with a touch of the salinity of squid ink. This elegant and complex wine maintains a tension and thread of acidity throughout finishing long with brambly, ripe tannins. ”

—WINEMAKER LUISA PONZI

PRODUCTION:

280 six packs

RELEASE DATE:

Fall 2019

VINTAGE 2017: The 2017 vintage was a welcome throwback to more classic vintage years after the previous five warm years. The winter was unusually cold and snowy. That extended into a cool spring, delaying bud break by a few weeks into April and bloom following suit in late June. The summer came dry and warm, for the most part, though we saw plenty of grey skies due to smoke from fires in the north and east. Fortunately, the Willamette Valley was spared any effect from the smoke and may have even benefited from some protection from sunburn in the hottest part of the summer. Set was very large, so judicious fruit thinning was required to maintain quality and control volume. Harvest began in late September and long mild days ensued. Cool nights kept acids brilliant and bits of rain here and there ensured beautiful conditions for ripe, clean fruit with mature skin and seed tannin. Reminiscent of recent vintages--2010 and 2011--this vintage will be one to enjoy immediately and for the long term.

VINEYARDS: This Pinot noir is crafted exclusively with fruit from Ponzi's LIVE Certified Sustainable Aurora Vineyard.

FERMENTATION: All of the fruit was hand sorted and destemmed. Fermented in small lots with five days of cold soak to increase aroma and color, the peak temperatures reached 90 degrees. The fermenters were aerated or manually punched down twice a day (for 12-20 days) before undergoing a 7 day post-fermentation maceration to increase structure and length. This wine was aged in French oak barrels (50% new), for 20 months. It was racked and bottled by gravity without filtration or fining and was aged in bottle for five months before its release. Alcohol is 14%. Finished pH is 3.65.