

The Concrete Egg and a Viking Pinot

Ovum Wine and Johan Vineyards both produce limited and distinct Oregon wines using native yeasts and minimal additives. We found great purity of character along with wonderful drinkability right now, though in both cases, the long-term development potential is high. Please let us know soon if you're interested in increasing your allotment!

Husband and wife team John House and Ksenija Kostic of Ovum Wines are wholly focused on the aromatic whites. As they write on their website, "drinking Ovum wine should be like listening to AM radio, in Stereo." Their wines have a hungry energy about them, which this quote captures well. They translate liquid expressions of place using Reisling, Gewurztraminer and Muscat as their mediums. Winemaking processes are kept minimal, to emphasize the grape, the place and the time. This inspiration is drawn from Old World production techniques, where the juice is slowly fermented and aged in vessels - most typically barrels - that subtly impact the aroma, flavor and texture of the wine. This aging process, or elevage, is a defining feature that shapes the character of the wine. .

The name Ovum pays homage to this process and refers directly to one of the most quintessential vessels of them all: the egg. As luck would have it, the 2013 Memorista Riesling was fermented and aged in a concrete egg and one neutral barrel. John and Ksenija prefer that the wine spend about 9 months on lees after undergoing native yeast fermentations as it hones depth and minerality. Made from grapes organically farmed at Meyer Vineyard high up in the Dundee Hills, the finished wine is like a picnic there, bringing to mind white flowers, bright citrus, and pears on a wet rock outcrop. It is delicious and mouth-wateringly good now and we're confident it'll only get better.

Our red this month is a complexly fruited, spice-driven and elegant wine, as reminiscent of Burgundy as it is of Oregon. The 2012 Johan Vineyards Estate Pinot Noir is a beautiful wine from the Perrydale Hills just northwest of Salem. The elevation is moderately low, with a northeastern aspect, and it sits close to the Van Duzer Corridor, where much of the cool coastal weather enters the Willamette Valley.

Johan Vineyards is the brainchild of Norwegian-born Dag Johan Sundby, who came to America in 2004 seeking a new life, much like his Viking ancestors 1000 years earlier. Dag's family was involved in farming and timber and encouraged his fondness for the wines of Burgundy. Naturally these inclinations led him to explore the Willamette Valley, and along with motivated business partners, he came across a young vineyard for sale in 2005. Johan Vineyards was born when the original planting of about 43 acres of Dijon clone Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and a bit of Pinot Gris in marine sedimentary soil yielded their first crop that fall. Viticulturalist/winemaker Dan Rinke joined Dag in 2007 and assisted in implementing Demeter-certified Biodynamic practices in the winery and vineyard, in place since 2010.

The Estate Pinot Noir bottling is the truest representation of the site as a whole, including 9 clones of Pinot Noir: They pick and ferment each parcel separately. Exhibiting nice whole cluster character, along with oak integration, this 2012 Pinot noir has lovely delicacy of expression for such a warm year, with complex floral tones and wonderful earthen flavors.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions, Extend your Subscription?? Please, speak your mind!!

Purevinewines.com, (877) 404-1121

Until next month,

Joe, Tom, & Andria

"fighting for the soul of wine.."



This Month's Biodynamic® / Organic Selections

Ovum

Memorista Riesling

100% Riesling

**Region: Eola-Amity
Hills, Oregon**

Vintage: 2013

Bright, limey and mineral, the Memorista has an energetic and vibrant personality with subtle aromatics of wet rocks, key lime and Granny Smith apple. Screaming key lime acidity balances the musk-melon sweetness perfectly, lifting the densely fruited expression and lengthening the palate. The concentration of flavors and balance is a lovely compliment to the smooth, wide texture and delicacy of aromatics, a testament to why Ovum is producing some of the most exciting aromatic white wines in Oregon. Only 100 cases produced.

Hey, why did my wine come in a used box?

In conjunction with Portland Wine Storage and our commitment to the environment we re-use wine shippers as many times as possible making them 100% recycled on our end.

Johan Vineyards

Estate Pinot Noir

100% Pinot noir

**Region: Willamette
Valley, Oregon**

Vintage: 2012

This beautiful 2012 Pinot Noir from a distinctive and biodynamically-farmed site has a subtle array of aromatics, with dark spices, bright blueberry, marionberry and red plums. The palate begins light and fresh and quickly displays deepness, movement and complexity. Long and powdery fruit is found on the palate with expansive and broad flavors of blueberries and strawberry rhubarb pie, pine and baking spice. Tremendous length and composure, there is whole cluster earthen spice quality that deepens the sweet fruit character well. This is the most exciting Pinot Noir we've tried from this rather cool site.