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GROCHAU CELLARS

2018 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir

Winery Name: Grochau Cellars

Owner/Winemaker: John Grochau

Year Founded: 2002

Winery Location: in the Eola-Amity Hills above Amity, Oregon (Willamette Valley)

About: John Grochau was first introduced to wine and the winemaking landscape in his early 20's, while racing bicycles for a French team in the Loire Valley. For several years, he raced through some of France's most revered winemaking regions including Champagne, Burgundy and the across the Loire Valley. When he returned to his hometown of Portland, Oregon, he went to work in the restaurant business and quickly discovered an even greater appreciation for wine. That passion led him to Brick House Vineyards, where he worked alongside winemaker Doug Tunnel for four years. With Grochau's restaurant experience, there was a natural progression as a winemaker to craft food-friendly wines that enhance a meal. Grochau strives to make wines that are **balanced**, **textured** and **expressive of place**. Inspired by the diversity of the Willamette Valley's soils and microclimates, Grochau sources fruit from seven organic and sustainably-farmed vineyards. Grapes are hand-harvested and wines undergo a slow, natural fermentation. Working with grape varieties with a legacy in the Willamette Valley – namely Pinot Noir and Pinot Blanc – Grochau also seeks to showcase the potential of emerging varieties like Melon de Bourgogne and Gamay.

Vineyards: *Eola-Amity Hills:* 30% Bjornson Vineyard, 16% Zenith Vineyard, 12% Vivid Vineyard, 10% Reford-Wetle Farm *Yamhill Carlton:* 18% Carlton Hill Vineyard, *Chehalem Mountains:* 14% Lia's Vineyard

Vintage: The growing season started with a cool spring and bud break in mid-April. In the last week of April we hit an abnormal 80 degrees and this warmth sustained through August without any significant rain. We were setting up for an early and warm harvest until rain started to fall on September 11. After months of hot weather and no rain, we received 1.25 inches over four days, giving the plants new life to finish ripening, followed by weeks of sun. The combination of the rain and mild temps let us hang the fruit longer for flavor development, while keeping fresh acidity and moderate sugars. Due to a warm and dry summer, the size of the grapes were small, giving us higher concentration along with more tannic structure.

Winemaking: 40% whole cluster fermentation, aged for 18 months in 18% new French oak barrels.

Bottled: July 2020

