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Wine Enthusiast 5/23

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2022 A TO Z OREGON PINOT NOIR

TASTING NOTES: The 2022 A to Z Wineworks Oregon Pinot Noir greets with a generous assembly of ripe black cherries, blackberries, strawberry jam and pomegranate, layered with a touch of oak, vanilla, nutmeg and black tea leaves. The aromas follow on the palate, along with notes of cranberry preserves, tangerine, orange peel, plum, spice cake, honeycomb, thyme, and rose petals. Round, juicy and fresh, the wine has balanced acidity lending to intensity of flavors. Moderate alcohol and gentle tannins trace the contours of the palate creating roundness, before easing into a lingering, satisfying finish. A true representation of cool-climate wine, the 2022 A to Z Pinot Noir is a delight to sip, savor and share.

WINEMAKING NOTES: The 2022 A to Z Pinot Noir is a blend of fruit from more than 15 different vineyards across Oregon. Once primary and secondary fermentations are complete, many trials result in a single cuvée blended to highlight classic Oregon Pinot Noir qualities.

VINTAGE NOTES: The growing season got off to a late start after a cool, wet spring followed the relatively warm and dry winter. Some of the earliest sites and varieties, including Chardonnay, suffered damaged primary buds from severe frost in mid-April. Growers left more shoots on the canes than normal to compensate for highly variable inflorescence counts and nursed many vines back to health. With a combination of the remaining primary buds and some secondary buds that had pushed in response to the frost, the vines were trending 2-3 weeks behind usual. Beautiful weather during flowering established a good fruit-set although anticipated yields varied enormously across varieties and from site to site and block to block. High soil moisture levels early in the season and more shoots than normal per linear foot led to high mildew pressure. A glorious, warm summer proceeded with almost no rain or heat stress on the vines which began to catch up a bit. Clusters and individual berries were larger than usual as veraison began in mid to late August. The warmest October on record helped enormously accelerate ripening and bring home 'the goods' before the end of the month.

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