

J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

2012 CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS PINOT NOIR, “NUAGES”



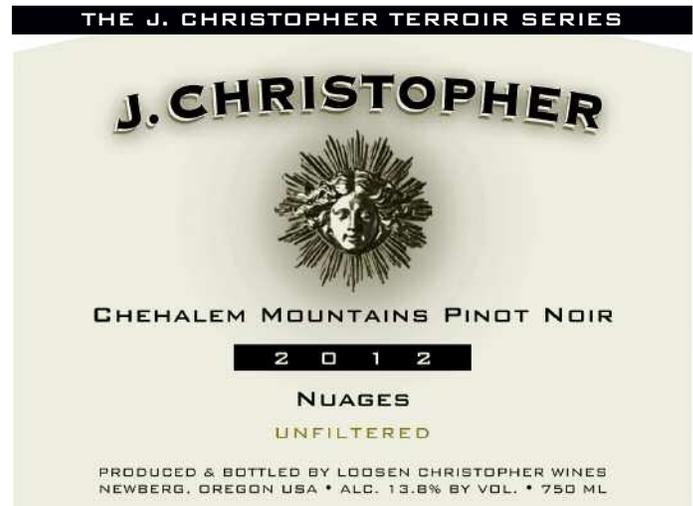
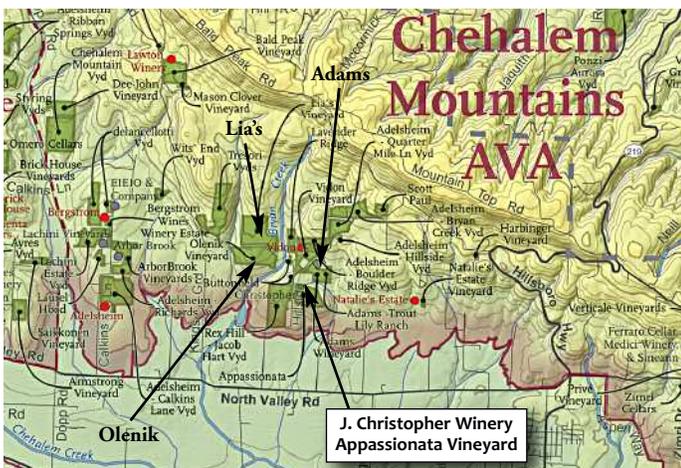
Appassionata (foreground) and Adams vineyards on Chehalem Mountain.

J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

Located in Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley, J. Christopher Wines is a small winery that specializes in Pinot Noir made in the traditional style of Burgundy, and in Sauvignon Blanc modeled after the great wines of Sancerre. The winery was founded in 1996 by Jay Somers, who has been making wine in Oregon for more than 20 years. In 2010, acclaimed Mosel winemaker Ernst Loosen formed a partnership with Jay and is now a co-owner.

The philosophy at J. Christopher is to produce wines in an Old World style that emphasizes focus, length and balance. As Jay puts it, “We do not make fruit bombs! We want wines that have a fine balance of fruit, acidity and texture. We want wines that give you more than just a big mid-palate blast — wines that are complete.”

THE CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS AVA



Named in tribute to Django Reinhardt's “Nuages,” one of wine-maker Jay's favorite gypsy jazz tunes, the Nuages Pinot Noir is selected from the winery's neighboring vineyards in the Chehalem Mountains AVA. The name “Nuages,” which is French for “clouds,” also pays homage to the moderating influence of Oregon's autumn cloud cover, which slows ripening to allow for the long hang time that creates fully developed flavors.

The 2012 Nuages includes barrels from the Adams, Lia's and Olenik vineyards, all of which are our neighbors on Chehalem Mountain. Deep red brick in color, the wine has a restrained, crushed fruit aroma that leads to a juicy, lush fruitiness on the palate. That fruitiness is superbly balanced by ripe tannins that give a satisfying edge to the texture. A small amount (10%) of whole-cluster fermentation was used for this wine.

Native yeast fermentation; 20 months in barrel.

Total production: 570 cases.

THE 2012 VINTAGE

A long, dry summer led to an early harvest of very ripe, healthy fruit. The wines are fleshy and fruit-dominant, with dark fruit flavors and soft, rounded tannins. The vintage is similar to 2009, but with a firmer, denser structure. The wines don't have the fine delineation of terroir that you get in a cooler vintage, like 2011, but these are delicious wines that reflect the nature of the vintage.

www.jchristopherwines.com