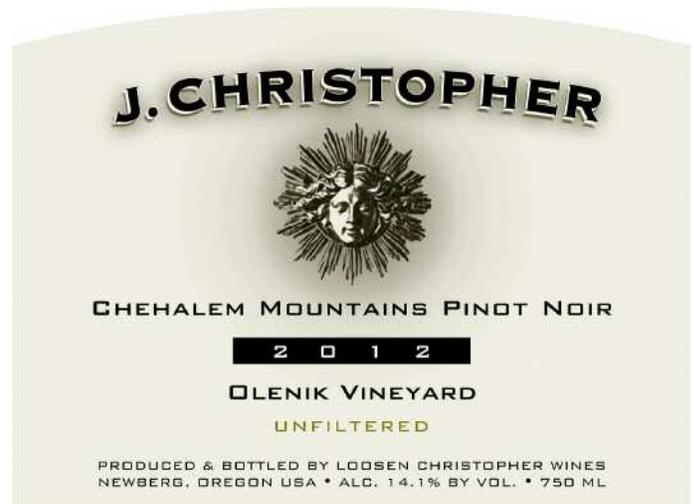


J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

2012 OLENIK VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, CHEHALEM MOUNTAINS



Olenik Vineyard, looking up the hill to the Chehalem Mountain ridge.

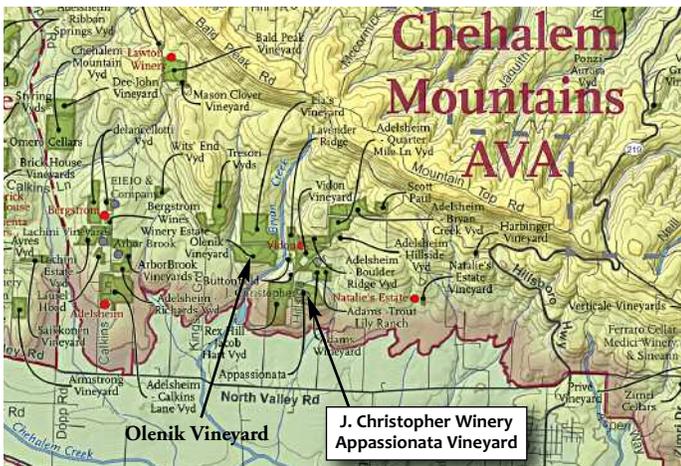


J. CHRISTOPHER WINES

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



Olenk Vineyard is one of our neighbor vineyards in the Chehalem Mountains AVA. It is on the same south-facing slope and is directly adjacent to Lia's Vineyard. But it is at lower elevation where the soil turns from volcanic clay to marine sediment over a fractured basalt subsoil. Marine sediment soils tend to produce wines with darker fruit and a firmer tannin structure, and that is certainly the case here.

This is always the biggest, richest wine that we produce, and that's especially true in a ripe vintage like 2012. The wine is quite dark in color, full and soft in texture, and monstrously lush on the palate. Still, there is a cool juiciness on the mid-palate, followed by firm, chewy tannins, that bring structure and balance to the wine. Produced with 30% whole-cluster fermentation.

Native yeast fermentation; 20 months in barrel.

Total production: 123 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

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