



#### **ABOUT THE VINEYARD...**

Dick Shea planted his first vines in the late 80's, just a few short years after Ken Bernards moved from his birthplace in the Willamette Valley to Napa to work his first harvest. The vineyards have grown, along with Shea's reputation for quality, and today his vines produce a disproportionately large percentage of the most renowned Willamette Pinot Noirs - often described as an Oregon "Grand Cru". Sedimentary soils, sitting on well-drained hillsides, along with careful, sustainable farming practices, consistently yield quality, well-ripened fruit in a viticultural area known for wide vintage variation. Both wine makers and wine connoisseurs look to Shea for Pinot Noirs with density, structure, and intense, spicy fruit.

#### **ABOUT THE VINTAGE...**

The 2021 vintage was another warm one in Oregon. Record heat hit early in the season when the vines were apparently still adaptable – and almost seemed to condition them for the drier season to come. Our 2021 Shea comes from an older block of Pommard clone Pinot Noir in the Back Block that Dick offered to us as the Swan clone planted for us was not yet producing. What a great transitional year for us! The wine possesses great old vine depth, we will move to youthful lushness beginning in 2022!

#### **ABOUT THE WINE...**

Our Shea, like all our Pinot Noirs, is fermented traditionally in one ton, open top containers using hand punch downs to achieve optimal extraction. A very warm fermentation enhanced the wines texture, seeing peaks in the mid-90 F range. Gravity provided movement from reception through pressing with inert gas used from then on. It was aged in François Frères and Remond cooperage for twelve months and racked once in the springtime. 158 cases produced.

#### **TASTING NOTES...**

Juicy and textured in the palate. Classic Shea notes of dried flowers, boysenberry, with subtle earthiness. Hints of cinnamon, cardamom and anise follow below and echo on the palate. As the wine opens, the broad berry fruit is generous and complex, expressing notes of tea, and potpourri. The 2021 vintage is a more forward version from Shea, but still possesses its characteristic tannic structure – boding well for its future development. Enjoy now or years down the road!