



ANCIEN

OREGON - SHEA VINEYARD

PINOT NOIR



2022

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. The 2022 vintage marks the first release from the recently replanted Block 9 that Ancien had sourced from Dick beginning in 2009. The Swan Selection vines are a first from the Shea Vineyard, but a long time favorite of ours.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

With a cool wet Spring and April frost, the 2022 season started out on precarious footing. As a result of the cool weather the season was pushed later. An exceptional finish to the season brought us to ripeness for an October 10th harvest.

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...

The inaugural release of our Shea Vineyard designate from the venerable Swan clone! The youthful exuberance of Swan is immediately recognizable. The wine possesses classic Shea notes of dried flowers, boysenberry, subtle earthiness and deeper, bolder dark berry flavors. Hints of cinnamon, cardamom and anise follow below and echo on the palate. As the wine opens, the broad fruit is generous and complex, expressing notes of tea, and potpourri. A delicious and forward wine, drink now or await further development for 5 - 7 years.