

PinotFile

The First Wine Newsletter Exclusively Devoted to Pinotphiles

*"If You Drink
No Noir
You Pinot Noir!"*

July 6, 2016



Benton-Lane Winery, Monroe

Lifelong winemakers Steve and Carol Girard founded this winery. High school sweethearts whose families loved wine, they began their wine journey in the Napa Valley where they established their first winery together, Girard Winery. They soon developed a passion for Pinot Noir and began searching the world for a Pinot Noir vineyard. They found Sunnymount Ranch in the foothills of the Willamette Valley Coast Range near the village of Monroe. The Girard's bought the 1,860-acre property in 1988 and began the planting of Pinot Noir the following year. The first Benton-Lane wine was produced in 1992. A winery was built in 1997 and the vineyard has grown to 142 acres of Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc and Chardonnay. Benton-Lane wines are made from 100% estate grown grapes. Since 2005, Benton-Lane has received more Top 100 Wines of the Year for still wines than any other Oregon winery. Check the website at www.benton-lane.com for tasting room hours.

2012 Benton-Lane First Class Estate Grown Willamette Valley Oregon Pinot Noir

14.1% alc., \$65, screwcap. • *Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. Deep aromas of black cherry, black raspberry and blueberry-pomegranate. Nicely endowed with luscious, ultra-ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit flavors accented with a hint of bourbon and spice. This wine packs plenty of power but is still refined in character, with a balancing vibrancy due to crisp acidity. The cleansing and intensely fruited finish leaves behind a pleasing impression. Score: 91*