

2019 Viola Auxerrois

Eola-Amity Hills AVA | Willamette Valley | Oregon

Björnson Vineyard is part of a scenic 107-acre farm, located in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley. We are committed to generating renewable energy, farming sustainably, and making wine with minimal handling, so that each bottle fully expresses our exceptional terroir.

The Grapes for this wine come from our 28-acre Björnson Estate vineyard in the Eola-Amity Hills AVA. The vineyard is situated on a primarily southwest aspect at an elevation ranging between 450'-550' with predominantly rocky Neke volcanic soils. This is 100% Auxerrois from Claire's block.

The Wine Auxerrois (pronounced *aus ser whah*) is a "sister" of chardonnay and grown primarily in Alsace, Germany and Luxembourg. This wine honors Pattie's grandmother Viola, a strong German-American who single-parented five children during WWII, survived polio, and whose bear hug could squeeze you to pieces. This wine presents fresh white peaches and a bouquet of spring flowers like sweet pea blossoms. An elegant backbone of minerality and wet stone binds this wine together. This wine is surprisingly nimble on the palate, with a low pH and relatively low TA, it is soft and has a bright acidity. The use of 40% neutral acacia wood barrels adds complexity and structure to the subtle stainless-steel fermentation.

The 2019 Vintage was a stressful vintage and quite a departure from the previous five uncharacteristically hot vintages. The cool wet spring helped the vines handle what initially was a reasonably warm summer and the sugar accumulation in the grapes was almost complete before the cold wet fall arrived. With disease pressures high and brix levels plateauing or barely increasing, many growers and vintners had to make some tough picking decisions. Despite the stress and the light crop load, Björnson Vineyard stayed vigilant and was able to produce some exceptional wines. The long hangtime (period from bloom to harvest) extended past 100 days in most cases allowing us to make wines with a greater phenological maturity without excess sugar. This resulted in wines of depth without over-ripe character or elevated alcohol which retained their natural acidity.



BJÖRNSON
Viola

2019 AUXERROIS • EOLA-AMITY HILLS • OREGON

Appellation: Eola-Amity Hills AVA, Willamette Valley, Oregon

Vineyard: Björnson Estate, Claire's block, 100% Auxerrois

Vinification: These were the first grapes to be harvested. The fruit was hand-picked and gently whole cluster pressed. The juice was cold settled for one day before being clean racked and inoculated. The fermentation took place in 60% stainless-steel and 40% neutral acacia barrels, taking 20 days to finish with a temperature high of 69°F degrees.

Harvested: September 14, 2019, 20.4 Brix

Finished Wine: Alc. 12.6%, pH 3.12, TA 5.9 g/L

Bottled: Dec. 12, 2019, 126 cases

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