

PONZI VINEYARDS

Founded in 1970, Ponzi Vineyards was instrumental in putting Willamette Valley on the map as a world-class wine region. Today, the winery continues to set the standard in Oregon Pinot noir and Chardonnay, elevating the region's reputation as a premier wine country destination.



Aurora Chardonnay 2017

Willamette Valley, Oregon

ESTATE

In the late 1960s Dick and Nancy Ponzi uprooted their family to pursue a dream of producing world class Pinot Noir. After research trips to Burgundy and an extensive search, they purchased 20 acres on a small farm just southwest of Portland, Oregon. They believed the climate, soils and vineyard site meet every need of noble cool-climate grape varieties. The first 4 barrels of wine produced in 1974. At the time, there are 5 bonded wineries in Oregon with 35 acres in production. Ponzi has since become internationally acclaimed for its Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Gris. For the last 25 years President Maria Ponzi and Winemaker Luisa Ponzi have brought the estate to even greater heights, setting the standard for Oregon and remaining at the forefront of the nation's top wine producers.

WINE

Aurora means sunrise and represents an unparalleled combination of bright acidity, texture and freshness of fruit on the mid-palate. Winemaker Luisa Ponzi's goal is to allow the wines to express these characteristics each vintage through single vineyard expressions. Aurora yields an elegant wine with bright acidity and fruit.

VINEYARD

The Chardonnay grapes for this single vineyard cuvée were grown on Laurelwood soil at Ponzi's LIVE Certified Sustainable Aurora Vineyard located in the Chehalem Mountains AVA. These vines were planted in 1990.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Chardonnay

Fermentation: Whole cluster pressed, allowing the juice to settle for 12 hours before fermentation in barrel, 45% new French oak. Lees are stirred weekly for 6 months before racking to neutral oak and bottled. Malolactic fermentation is 100% completed with wild bacteria.

Aging: 20 months in barrel, 6 months in bottle

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage was a welcome throwback to more classic vintage years after the previous five warm years. Harvest began in late September and long mild days ensued. Cool nights kept acids brilliant and bits of rain here and there ensured beautiful conditions for ripe, clean fruit with mature skin and seed tannin. This vintage will be one to enjoy immediately and for the long term.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

96

"Spiced lemon-biscuit aromas with a fresh-peach thread, which, together with pastry and hazelnut notes, make for a complex nose. The palate has a very rich, layered and fresh feel with such intense, powerfully contained fruit. Loaded with peach flavors. Great composure and a toasty, grilled-hazelnut finish." - JAMES SUCKLING, 1/2020

93

Wine Advocate

92

Wine Enthusiast