

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.



Laurelwood Chardonnay 2021

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 and Chardonnay. Today winemaker Luisa Ponzi continues her work of the last 30 years with the family of Champagne Bollinger, which acquired Ponzi Vineyards in 2021. The estate's drive to create distinctly pure Pinot Noir, in a distinctly Oregon manner, has never been stronger.

WINE

Situated along the Northern ridge of the Chehalem Mountains, the Laurelwood District boasts ancient soils of fractured basalt layered over with a fine, windblown sediment called loess. A decade-long effort by the Ponzis, alongside their neighbors has resulted in the recognition of Oregon's first soil-based AVA, the Laurelwood District.

VINEYARD

The 2021 Laurelwood Chardonnay is a blend of Ponzi's LIVE Certified Sustainable Avellana and Aurora Vineyards blended with Paloma Vineyard all on Laurelwood soil in the Laurelwood District AVA of the Chehalem Mountains.

WINEMAKING

Harvest: Sep-Oct 2021

Variety: 100% Chardonnay

Fermentation: The fruit was whole cluster pressed and the juice moved to French oak barrels (14% new) and fermented in barrel using native yeast. Malolactic fermentation was spontaneous and 100%. Lees were stirred once a week for 6 months.

Aging: 12 months total on the lees, 20 months total in neutral oak.

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

This vintage brought with it a huge sigh of relief and many smiles to grape growers and winemakers throughout the valley. After the smoke filled 2020 vintage, and the "heat dome" events in the summer of 2021, we wondered what was next! Thankfully, the heat events seemed to do little damage and, in fact, appeared to have killed off any mildew issues that may have been there. The early rains in September refreshed the vines and the fruit started coming in mid-September perfectly clean, ripe, and full of flavor. Reminiscent of 2012, the nights were very cool creating wines with balanced acidity, big aromatics, and delicious full flavors. Yields were somewhat smaller than expected, but that only adds to the intensity of color and structure of the wines. An added benefit to this vintage was all the happy people so energized to harvest and create beautiful wines again.

TASTING NOTES

This inviting nose balances fresh floral notes of honeysuckle, chamomile and magnolia with deeper tones of apricot, candied lemon and beeswax. A touch of slate and wet stone energize the aromatics. The broad mouth is layered with white peach, quince, meringue, lemon grass and a thread of salted caramel throughout. The juicy acidity tinged with crushed seashell, bright and playful calling for another sip.