

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 Pinot Noir 2022

Laurelwood District, Chehalem Mountains • 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 Laurelwood District Pinot Noir is a blend of Ponzi's Aurora, Avellana, Linda Vista, Gemini, Chehalem Crossing, all of which are LIVE Certified Sustainable. This subregion of the Chehalem Mountains spreads across the northern slopes, largely protected from coastal rains, allowing the basalt soils to retain water in the spring and slowly, evenly drain throughout the growing season, bringing an inherent balance to the grape and a measured intensity to the wines.

WINEMAKING

Harvest: Sep-Oct 2022

Variety: 100% Pinot Noir

Fermentation: In small lots, with daily punch-downs

Aging: 10 months in barrel, 30% new French oak, 12 months in bottle

Alcohol: 13.8%

VINTAGE

2022 saw an early spring but a later summer, which came on strong and October arrived dry – one of the warmest in Oregon history – allowing fruit to perfectly ripen.

TASTING NOTES

"The initial nose is warm raspberry jam, chili pepper and chipotle balanced by flinty notes of gun smoke and red clay that open to rose petals, magnolia, cloves, and salt air. The mouth holds long, dark tannins of cola, white pepper, and spices of star anise, cardamom, and juniper, finishing with an explosion of blue fruit. Our Laurelwood soil meets Burgundy in this glass." -Winemaker Luisa Ponzi