



UNITED CELLARS

UNITED STATES - OREGON



ILLAHE



HAND CRAFTED - SUSTAINABLE
FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1983

Illahe Estate "Bon Sauvage" Pinot Noir 2017

Vineyards

Illahe is a LIVE-certified, Salmon Safe vineyard. We use cover crops throughout the vineyard to benefit the soil and for biodiversity. As part of Oregon's Deep Roots Coalition, which promotes responsible water management, we do not irrigate mature plants. All pruning, as well as the harvesting, is done by hand. Sulfur spray is only used to control for powdery mildew and botrytis.

We aim for balance and optimal ripeness. This includes leaf pulling to decrease shade and dropping green clusters after the grapes ripen (veraison). One of our goals at Illahe is to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels – we have installed solar panels on our winery and use our two horses, Doc and Bea, to mow and to transport grapes to the winery.

Production

Minimal intervention and historical winemaking techniques characterize our winemaking at Illahe. The grapes are loaded onto the sorting table where any unripe or damaged clusters are removed by hand. The grapes are cold soaked for 2 to 6 days before undergoing a fermentation by natural yeast. The cap is punched down by tool or on occasion foot. Our red wines ferment naturally. The finished product is drained and then scooped carefully down to the press level. We use a wooden basket press, only retaining enough tannin in pressing for aging.

Tasting Notes

The 2017 Bon Sauvage explodes with fresh redwood, cedar and leather upon first taste. This wine was made as a barrel selection based on wines that best represented the 2017 vintage at Illahe. Firm savory tannins lead into a soft complex finish. Flavors of marionberry and pomegranate play with ponderosa notes as the wine opens up in your glass. Drinks great now, but has a strong structure and acidity to cellar for years to come.

Appellation
Willamette Valley

Location
Dallas, Oregon

Winery Size
60 acres

Winemaker
Brad Ford

Varieties
100% Pinot Noir

Aging
25 % new French oak, 75% neutral French oak

Age of Vines
19 Years

Elevation
250 – 440 feet

Soil
Sedimentary clay

Alcohol Content
14 %

Production
8,904 Bottles

Farming
Dry farmed, Certified Sustainable (LIVE)