

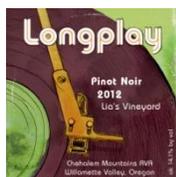


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Groove Club Shipment #5 - What's in the Box?

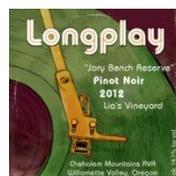
This shipment highlights the new releases of the 2012 vintage. The vintage received a lot of positive advance press. It was a warm growing season, and the media (and much of the public) like plush, rich pinot noir. I've tried quite a few examples from the vintage. I've found several to be really good, a few not so great and many nice wines. The 2012 vintage at Lia's Vineyard wasn't perfect - we have good wind exposure which is usually a positive, but in 2012 we had some late-season winds coupled with low humidity that started shutting down the vines prematurely, forcing us to pick a bit earlier than desired. The vintage as a whole was good, not great, in my opinion. I've also said that after the difficult 2011 vintage, 2012 seemed almost too easy! I do like the wines and I hope you'll like them as well. The pinots will benefit from additional aging and/or aeration/decanting for the next year or so.

Longplay 2012 Pinot Noir, Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles).



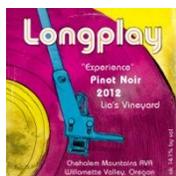
This is a cross section of the entire vineyard with a little bit of everything in it. It is actually drinking well now and has a some nice fruit flavors and a juiciness that I really like. We picked the younger vines on October 4th and the older vines on the 18th. 313 cases produced.

Longplay 2012 Pinot Noir, "Jory Bench Reserve," Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles)



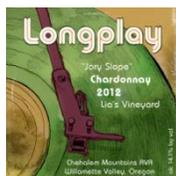
Block 1, my favorite block of Pommard selection, and Blocks 4 and 5, old Wadenswil selection, make up this bottling. This is the first time we've been 100 percent Jory Bench for the Jory Bench Reserve. There are a couple new barrels in the mix, so just over 20 percent new oak. The wine was very lovely in cellar but has been a bit muted since bottling. It really calls out for food. I expect it will come together a bit better in 2015 or so. Definitely decant for the foreseeable future. 196 cases produced.

Longplay 2012 Pinot Noir, "Experience," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle)



When we empty the tanks after fermentation and transfer the young wines to barrel, we sometimes have half a barrel of wine left. In 2012, we combined a half barrel of 115 and a half barrel of Mariafeld and put them in the cellar and we were surprised at how nice the wine was straight from the barrel. We added another barrel of each to this bottling, one of which was a new barrel, so we're talking 33 percent new oak. I really, really like this wine. 72 cases produced.

Longplay 2012 Chardonnay, "Jory Slope" Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle)



With tropical notes of pineapple and white flowers, this is, in some respects, the polar opposite of our 2011 Chardonnay. But the characteristic spicy notes and intensity of previous vintages remains. We swapped our neutral barrels out for once-filled and second-filled French barrels. So there is a hint of oak on the wine. But it wears it well. None of the barrels went through malolactic fermentation, so despite the oak the wine remains bright and not buttery. I love the wild floral notes on this wine, one of my favorite Jory Slopes to date. Yields were pathetic. 48 cases produced.