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Groove Club Shipment #7 - What's in the Box?

This is a Spring Shipment, and that means we look ahead to a new year by enjoying some young wines from the most recently bottled vintage - in this case 2013. While the wines are young, I like the 2013 vintage and think it shows wonderful promise. The vintage was warm and a bit early, but some late season rains and cool weather in the final week or two helped to preserve a freshness in the wines. We picked most of our fruit after a torrential rain storm; we let the fruit hang and dry out a bit before we felt it was time to harvest.

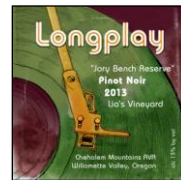
We encourage Groove Club members to sample one of each of these bottles over the next several months. This way, in the event you want to purchase additional bottles of one of the wines, you can be assured that it will still be available.

Longplay 2013 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 a bit tight right now but has a nice juiciness that I really like - some might call it "crunchy." We picked block 3 on September 16 (before the rains) and the rest of the fruit on October 2. 367 cases produced.

Longplay 2013 Pinot Noir, "Jory Bench Reserve," Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles)



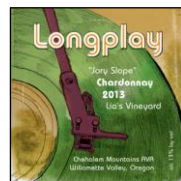
Since the 2008 vintage we have bottled our Pommard and Wadenswil selections growing on the Jory Bench as a reserve. Similar to 2011 and 2010 we added a bit (in this case a barrel) of Mariafeld to give the wine a bit more flesh. I really think this wine is representative of some of the best features of the 2013 vintage. We used a couple of new barrels, so just about 25 percent new oak. 145 cases produced.

Longplay 2013 Pinot Noir, "Lucky 13," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle)



Tasting from barrel, I was intrigued by the possibility of combining a texturally exciting lot of 114 clone with a more plush lot of Pommard. I selected a few barrels and favored the Pommard only slightly in the final blend. "Lucky 13" - because sometimes you're good, sometimes you're lucky, and sometimes you're both. 72 cases produced.

Longplay 2013 Chardonnay, "Jory Slope" Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle)



In many ways this wine reminds me of our 2008 Chardonnay - a very balanced ripeness, nice acidity, lovely aromas and pairs well with food. The lightly used barrels we first employed with the 2012 vintage have calmed down nicely and give just a tiny hint of oak influence. There's a little sweetness on the palate, but this is moderated by the spicy note on the finish that is always present in our Chardonnay. 44 cases produced.