

Longplay

Lia's Vineyard * Chehalem Mountains

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Groove Club Shipment #17 - What's in the Box?

This shipment gives another look at the pinots from 2017, one of my all time favorite vintages. These wines were all bottled either in late May or fall of 2019. The pinots were made with Todd Hamina at Biggio-Hamina Cellars. Todd had made some beautiful wines from my fruit in 2016 and when I needed to find a home for a bit more fruit than I had space for at Longplay's primary home at J. Christopher, Biggio-Hamina was an obvious choice. Todd likes to leave the wines in barrel over the winter and bottle in the late spring, so these pinots were 18 months in barrel. The wines are more floral and a bit less reductive than the brooding style one might associate with J. Christopher's cellar. We picked the fruit for these 2017 pinots on October 7th. As always, it is a good idea to let the wines rest for a week or two to recover from their journey if they have been shipped.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, "Take 2," Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles) This is a cross-section of the entire vineyard with a little bit of everything in it - 115, 667, 777 and Mariafeld. I called it "Take 2" because it reminds me of, for example, the alternate takes of Beatles songs that I love to listen to. There is a delicate prettiness to the wine that is balanced by a fresh acidity. There are a couple barrels from a whole cluster fermenter in this mix which gives a nice grippiness. 192 cases produced.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, "Experience," Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles) I have long been intrigued by whole cluster pinots and my 115 clone fruit seems to like whole cluster ferments. We did one 115 fermenter 100 percent whole cluster, another about 60/40 and another 100 percent destemmed. When it came time to bottle, I loved the whole cluster lot, but I really loved it with a bit of the destemmed fruit which added some flesh to the wine. In the end, we selected four barrels - two from the whole cluster lot and one barrel each from the destemmed and partially destemmed lots. I really appreciate the balance of generosity and tension in this wine. 96 cases bottled.

Longplay 2018 Chardonnay, "Jory Slope," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle) This is a bright and refreshing Chardonnay that is a bit citrusy and tight for my palate right now, but I will probably love it in a couple years. If you like your Chardonnay bright and tight, you will like it now. We picked September 17, 2018, put it in neutral oak, and then bottled September 9, 2019. 45 cases produced.

Longplay 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir, "Dream On," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle) While I used to be suspicious of rosé, I've come to appreciate it for its ability to pair with many difficult foods - like tacos and pizza. This wine was made with John Grochau of Grochau Cellars with whom I've teamed up on rosé since 2015 and who first used my fruit for his own wines in 2010. We left this rosé in barrel for eight months and the result was worth the wait. The wine is refreshing and versatile, with floral notes and restrained fruit. 100 cases produced.