

Longplay

Lia's Vineyard * Chehalem Mountains

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Groove Club Shipment #16 - What's in the Box?

This shipment highlights the 2014 vintage pinots. It was the first of three consecutive warm vintages. I didn't fight the vintage and the wines, especially the Lia's Vineyard bottling, show the richness that one might commonly associate with pinot noir from, for example, the Russian River Valley or the Sta Rita Hills. To my palate, I find the wines generous and welcoming. The Jory Bench Reserve and Hi-Tone bottlings, which are produced using fruit from the cooler corner of the vineyard, are some of my favorites. The wines are ready to enjoy now for most palates, so no need to sit on these. As usual, 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 2014 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 has softened a bit with age and is drinking well now with nice fruit flavors and a hint of spice. We picked the younger vines on September 18th and the older vines on the 25th. 326 cases produced.

Longplay 2014 Pinot Noir, "Jory Bench Reserve," Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles) Block 1, my favorite block of Pommard selection, and Blocks 4 and 5, old Wädenswil selection, make up this bottling. New oak is about 20 percent which I find to be an appropriate level. This wine has a bright raspberry note and a linear focus that I find intriguing. The balance of fruit, tannin, spice and acid are rewarding on the palate. All fruit was picked on September 25th.

Longplay 2014 Pinot Noir, "Hi-Tone," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle) My favorite block of Wädenswil is what makes this bottle. A single block sometimes can seem a bit monotonous, but some variation in this lumpy block give the wine complexity. New oak is 25 percent and the wine wears it well. This wine tastes fancy. 72 cases produced.

Longplay 2018 Sparkling Rosé of Pinot Noir, "Pixie," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle) I love a good sparkling wine. For me the bubbles need to be fine and silky and the flavors rich yet gentle. We dosed a small amount at bottling to counterbalance the carbonation and arrived at what could be called an "extra dry" (as compared to "brut" or "extra brut" or "dry") profile. I love the bit of yeastiness that resulted from the *sur lie* aging in neutral barrels. Just 50 cases produced.