

Longplay

Lia's Vineyard * Chehalem Mountains

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Groove Club Shipment #18 - What's in the Box?

This shipment is a look back at the excellent 2015 vintage. It was another warm growing season, and I like to think we get better at adapting to warm seasons with more practice. There was a bit of early sunburn in 2015, and it was a battle to avoid allowing shriveled grapes into the fermenter. The wines can be richer and more plush than one typically associates with Oregon, but not inconsistent with previous warm vintages. At Longplay we try to embrace rather than fight the vintage. These 2015s are drinking well right now and will pair well with your holiday meals. I like the wines and I hope you'll like them as well.

Longplay 2015 Pinot Noir, Lia's Vineyard (2 bottles) This is a cross section of the entire vineyard with a little bit of everything in it. "Safety School" block of 777 and 114 make up the bulk of the bottling, along with Mariafeld and a little bit of Pommard and Wädenswil. It is drinking really well now and has a simple elegance that I find appealing. 256 cases produced.

Longplay 2015 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. It has the classic Jory soil hallmarks of red fruit, floral nose and a broad palate. There are two new barrels in the mix, so 33 1/3 percent new oak, which is a bit more than usual. This is a rich wine that will definitely benefit from decanting for the foreseeable future. 150 cases produced.

Longplay 2015 Pinot Noir, "Hi-Tone," Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle) I love this wine for its texture and the floral notes on the bouquet. In contrast to the Jory Bench Reserve, this has zero new oak, nor any second fill barrels, so the Wädenswil fruit really is the star. The 14.5 percent alcohol can be apparent at first but lessens with air and the reduction in volatiles. There is a hint of sweetness that can make it seem perhaps too yummy to be taken seriously, but then there is a nudge of slightly herbacious celery root on the finish that I find rewarding. 72 cases produced.

Longplay 2015 Pinot Noir, "Experience" Lia's Vineyard (1 bottle) This was the first Longplay to feature whole cluster fermentation and it definitely has a bit more grip than your typical Oregon pinot noir. While there is no new oak, the note of vanilla and coconut from once-filled barrels is apparent. The juice was all free run, so there aren't many of those stemmy notes often found in whole cluster wines. This is a big wine that pairs great with a cream sauce and most fall and winter cuisine. 50 cases bottled.