

Longplay

Lia's Vineyard * Chehalem Mountains

Longplay Wine, LLC
888 S Industrial Pkwy
Newberg, OR 97132
(503) 482-8483
info@longplaywine.com
www.longplaywine.com

Groove Club Shipment #22 - What's in the Box?

This club pack says farewell to the 2017 vintage in "fall back mode." You're looking at six wines in the shipment, so hopefully you will find something to like. The vintage remains a favorite among recent vintages for both me and lovers of "classic" Willamette Valley pinot noir. A cool, wet spring was followed by a warm summer and a cool fall with rains complicating the harvest schedule. Fine, sunny weather during bloom resulted in a large crop which tested the capacity of many wineries. As a result, J. Christopher, where we had made Longplay Wine since the 2011 vintage, ran out of room and I wound up taking several tons of fruit to Biggio Hamina Cellars in McMinnville where we made "Take 2" and "Experience." These wines are showing really well now, but it's fine to save them for another two or three years. If you find something you like, buy more now because we won't have this vintage in stock forever.

Longplay 2017 Chardonnay, "Jory Slope," Lia's Vineyard

In some ways this was our best Chardonnay ever. I've said it is the wine I'd choose to take on the road because it is a great example of Oregon Chardonnay. I've also said it is almost too perfect; sometimes a bit of funkiness can add interest. But I'll take delicious any day of the week. Picked September 25th, it is what I consider the balanced "Longplay style" with floral notes, tropical fruit and a spicy yet clean finish. Just 42 cases produced.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, Lia's Vineyard

This wine is mostly 115 clone with a bit of Wädenswil and Pommard from the Jory Bench. A very nice, balanced wine, that showcases the qualities of the 115 from our site. This and the next two wines had pick dates of October 3rd. 368 cases produced.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, "Jory Bench Reserve," Lia's Vineyard

This is the classic Jory Bench Reserve recipe with 2/3 Pommard, 1/3 Wädenswil, and one new barrel out of six. A sublimely balanced wine with nice breadth on the palate and an impressive finish. 149 cases produced.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, "Hi-Tone," Lia's Vineyard

This wine highlights the old Wädenswil wines from Lia's Vineyard. A floral bouquet, red, crunchy fruit on the palate and a long, lingering finish make this wine a favorite. Two barrels, no new oak. Just 49 cases produced, so it has rarely appeared in the tasting room.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, "Take 2," Lia's Vineyard

Mostly 115 clone with a bit of Mariafeld and 667 clone in the mix for good measure. We think of this wine as an alternate universe version of our typical Lia's Vineyard bottling. This bottle, and the 2017 "Experience," were produced at Biggio Hamina Cellars and the fruit was picked on October 11th. We went to bottle on May 28, 2019, so this spent almost 17 months in barrel.

Longplay 2017 Pinot Noir, "Experience," Lia's Vineyard

I first made Experience in 2012. It was fifty cases of a lucky accident in the cellar where we had a co-ferment of Mariafeld and 115. It was dark, tannic, delicious and unique. We made Experience again in 2015 from a whole-cluster fermentation of 828 clone. It was also 50 cases, tannic and dark. This bottling marks the new standard for Experience – a focus on whole cluster ferments. I love whole cluster wines – they smell and feel great! They can be a bit of an acquired taste and they aren't easy to make – there is increased risk of things going off the rails. But I think the risk is worth it.

This bottle highlights a fermenter of 115 that we did as 100 percent whole cluster. I included some wine from a destemmed lot of 115 in the final bottling because otherwise it would be just too much of a good thing. The nose on this wine is over-the-top floral with notes of lavender. The palate has nice smooth fruit, with surprisingly gentle tannins for a whole-cluster wine. This wine will usually benefit from decanting or aeration. It is hitting its prime now and sells really well when I open it lately.