

Longplay

Lia's Vineyard * Chehalem Mountains

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Groove Club Shipment #23 - What's in the Box?

This club pack welcomes spring with a pack of six fresh wines from the 2021 vintage. The 2021 vintage was excellent by almost all measures. I suppose my only complaint is that yields could've been better, as we were about 25 percent below normal.

These wines were entirely made at the new Longplay facility and I think my ability to have as much control as possible over the processing, fermentation and bottling shows in the wines. They are truly expressive of the site and my "no compromises" winemaking ethos. I was mostly able to pick the fruit when I wanted, and I came to know each fermenter and barrel.

The standard shipment includes the following four wines (six total bottles):

Longplay 2021 Chardonnay, "Jory Slope," Lia's Vineyard x1

I really love this Chardonnay. I think white wine can be harder to make than red (especially at this scale). It all comes down to selecting a pick date and carefully tending the barrels. Yields were down, so we fermented in two barrels which we consolidated into one. It is what I call "Longplay style" - full-bodied with floral notes, tropical fruit and a spicy yet clean finish. Pick date September 21. Just 30 cases produced.

Longplay 2021 Pinot Noir, "Lia's Vineyard" x2

This wine is about one-third younger vine (planted 2014) Wädenswil with a mix of 114, 115, 777, Mariafeld and older (1991) Wädenswil rounding out the cuvée. A very nice, balanced wine, that illustrates the magic of combining various lots to arrive at a result that is greater than the sum of the parts. Eight fermenters, five different pick dates, September 11 – October 1. 461 cases produced.

Longplay 2021 Pinot Noir, "Jory Bench Reserve," Lia's Vineyard x2

This is the classic Jory Bench Reserve recipe with 70 percent Pommard, 30 percent Wädenswil, 30 percent new oak. A nicely balanced, yet rich, wine with nice breadth on the palate and an impressive finish. Picked September 17 and 26. 236 cases produced.

Longplay 2021 Pinot Noir, "Hi-Tone," Lia's Vineyard x1

This wine highlights the old Wädenswil vines from Lia's Vineyard. A floral bouquet, red, crunchy fruit on the palate and a long, lingering finish make this wine a favorite. No new oak. Two pick dates – September 17 and 26. Of the seven barrels that compose this bottling, five are from the earlier pick, which I preferred for its elegance and brightness. 165 cases produced.

Additional/Optional/Swap Upgrade wines:

Longplay 2021 Pinot Noir, "Experience," Lia's Vineyard

This bottle features a 100 percent whole cluster fermenter of 115 clone planted in 1999. Five of the six barrels from the fermenter made it into the "Experience" bottling. The other added some texture and aromatics to the "Lia's Vineyard" pinot noir. The nose on this wine is over-the-top floral with notes of lavender and boysenberry. The palate has plenty of fruit with a nice, stemmy grip. This wine will usually benefit from decanting or aeration. We picked September 27. 111 cases produced.

Longplay 2021 Pinot Noir, "Superstition," Lia's Vineyard

Tasting barrels in the cellar, there was one barrel of free-run from a 100 percent whole cluster fermentation of Mariafeld that really stood out from the crowd. It had unique aromatics and an intriguing juiciness. Since one barrel isn't enough to justify printing a label, and because it was perhaps too much of a good thing on its own, I tested it as a blend with a bunch of different barrels. I was surprised when a new Gillet "Blonde" (long, light toast) barrel of 115 clone was the best match. We picked the Mariafeld on October 1, the 115 on September 26. 49 cases produced.