

*Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes*  
*Saturday, April 13th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

*J. Christopher Wines*  
*With Ray Bloom from Vinum Wines*

*\$10 Tasting Fee*

J. Christopher Wines is a small winery located on Chehalem Mountain in Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley. Owner and winemaker Jay Christopher Somers says, "From my first sip of Burgundy, there was no turning back. Old World wines are what I have always loved to drink."

*J. Christopher 2011 Willamette Valley Sauvignon Blanc \$22.99*

Sauvignon Blanc is a specialty at J. Christopher. Although not widely planted in Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley, it is ideal for the area's climate, as this wine proves. Made in the clean, fresh style of France's Loire Valley, this wine is fermented in stainless steel and doesn't go through malolactic fermentation. The result is a classic, highly aromatic wine with perfect ripeness and excellent acidity.

*2010 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir \$30.99*

The Willamette Valley Pinot Noir is the flagship J. Christopher wine. Blended from excellent vineyards in three of the Willamette Valley's AVAs: Dundee Hills, Chehalem Mountains and Eola Hills and made with native fermentations and up to 18 months of barrel time, this is classic Oregon Pinot Noir.

*J. Christopher 2010 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir Cuvée \$38.99*

This cuvée is a blend of selected barrels from several excellent vineyard sites in the red Jory clay of the Dundee Hills AVA. It shows the depth and power that are typical of this area, and makes a very interesting comparison to the "Nuages" cuvée from the rockier

soil of the Chehalem Mountains AVA. The 2010 vintage includes barrels from Bella Vida, Baptista Maresh, Charlie's, Abbey Ridge and Le Pavillon vineyards.

*J. Christopher 2010 "Lumiere" Pinot Noir, Eola-Amity Hills*  
**\$38.99**

"Lumiere" refers to the light that contributes to Eola-Amity Hills' discernible qualities in Pinot Noir. This terroir wine is made from fruit sourced from two small vineyards; "Dubay" and "Three Angels" on Walnut Road. Silky texture and dark fruits, layered with fine tannins and perfectly balanced acidity, all come together in J. Christopher's newest AVA Pinot Noir.

*J. Christopher 2010 "Nuages" Pinot Noir Chehalem* **\$38.99**

Named to honor one of winemaker Jay Somers' favorite gypsy jazz tunes, the 2010 "Nuages" (French for "clouds") also pays homage to the moderating influence of Oregon's autumnal cloud cover, which slows ripening to allow the long hang time that creates fully developed flavors.

Beginning with a subtle nose of dark, sweet fruit and a hint of smoke and vanilla, Nuages delivers a graceful impact on the palate with fine, focused fruit accented by intriguing spice and herbal notes, a firm structure, and good length.

*J. Christopher 2010 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir, Abbey Ridge*  
**\$57.99**

If Oregon had a vineyard classification system, Abbey Ridge would top the list of "grand cru" sites there. High up in the Dundee Hills, it produces the most distinctive wines in Oregon.

The 2010 Abbey Ridge has an ultra elegant and exceedingly distinctive mineral/floral character that is so typical of this great vineyard. It's both delicate and full-bodied at the same time, offering a lively salty/sweet interplay and a long, juicy finish.