

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Saturday, February 1st, 2-5 p.m.

A Taste of Oregon

Featuring Elk Cove, Panther Creek and Ken Wright Cellars

\$10 Tasting Fee

\$5 for Wine Club Members

Tasting Fee Refunded with Purchase of Three Bottles From the Tasting

Ken Wright 2010 Celilo Vineyard Chardonnay \$36.99

Since 1993 Ken Wright Cellars has made consistently excellent Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Blanc at their winery in Carlton, Oregon.

This bottling is 100% Chardonnay from the famous Celilo Vineyard in the Columbia River Gorge near White Salmon, Washington. Its site overlooks the river far below from its perch on a 1,000 foot bluff of the inactive volcano, Mount Underwood. There pulverized basalt soil, porous and loose, promotes deep rooting of the vines.

Unlike Chardonnay grown in the hot eastern desert of Washington, this is a much cooler site. As a result, the fruit retains more acidity and the wine displays a clean mineral character with a richly expansive texture that you're sure to appreciate.

Elk Cove 2011 Estate Riesling \$16.99

"Elk Cove's Pinot Noirs have an outstanding reputation, but I'm almost as impressed by their Estate Riesling, which has plenty of aroma, fruit and spices, and at 12 percent alcohol is a wine I'd like to keep around for a couple of years to see if it develops into something even finer. Right now, if grilled salmon were on the plate, this Riesling would be in the glass." -John Mariani, for *Bloomberg News Muse* (August 18, 2013)

The 2011 Estate Riesling shows more prominent fruit than in other years. Aromas of honeysuckle and anise followed by perky flavors of ripe stone fruits and citrus on the palate, with a cleansing finish of jasmine green tea.

Panther Creek 2010 "Winemaker's Cuvee" Pinot Noir \$26.99

This wine offers bushels of red raspberries and bramble, Bing cherries, wet stone, and a caress of shiitake mushrooms around an intense core of black plums. All that is highlighted by a touch of orange peel, bittersweet chocolate and exotic spices. The entrance is juicy, but not jammy, managed by proper structure to create a 2010 beauty to enjoy now, but also worthy of aging 5-10 years.

Elk Cove 2012 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir \$28.99

Brilliant ruby red in color, and silky smooth in texture, this blend of Pommard and Dijon clones from several select vineyard sites offers classic Willamette Valley aromas of raspberry, rose and licorice, and flavors bursting with juicy black cherry, cranberry, dark tea and baking spices along with subtle notes of thyme and black pepper.

Ken Wright 2011 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley \$32.99

Ken Wright has been crafting some of Oregon's best Pinot Noirs for over two decades. In addition to the ten single vineyard wines he produces, Ken Wright also produces a value-priced Pinot Noir that is a blend of Wright's fruit from Abbott Claim, Canary Hill, Carter, Freedom Hill, Guadalupe, McCrone, Meredith Mitchell, Nysa and Savoya vineyards. This blend is extremely enjoyable, lush and full of pure, Pinot fruit. This 2012 Ken Wright Pinot Noir Willamette Valley is the fourth great vintage in a row for this phenomenal bargain.

Elk Cove 2011 Mount Richmond Pinot Noir \$48.99

"Scents of black cherry and chocolaty oak suggest this will be a rich wine, and the dark red-fruited flavors bear this out. But the wine comes into focus in a lively finish, with a hint of fruit blossom and mouthwatering acidity. It has the fine-boned elegance to pair with grilled salmon." -Patrick J. Comiskey, 91 points, *Wine and Spirits*