

Benmar

2024 Springbok Pinot Noir Yamhill-Carlton, Willamette Valley

96/100 Decanter

“...delivers a tremendous concentration of forest berry fruit laced with fragrant conifer and spearmint notes... a wine of structure, clarity, and poise.”

Jen captured this Spieden Island photo during our Orcas Island whale-watching trip. In the 1960s, it was a hunting reserve for exotic animals, including lions and giraffes, brought in by taxidermy brothers. As the local lore goes, a brave Springbok swam to Orcas Island, exposing the business on the island. You can still see some animals that have learned to adapt to the chilly island.

2024: Vintage of the Decade

Winemakers across the Willamette Valley are calling 2024 one of the finest vintages in recent memory. A near-perfect growing season delivered extended hang times, pristine fruit, and vibrant acidity. The result: wines of exceptional balance, elegance, and cellar-worthy depth.

Vineyard:

The 2024 Springbok Pinot Noir hails from select sites in Yamhill-Carlton, including vineyards neighboring Domaine Serene, WillaKenzie, Gran Moraine, Hirschy, and Shea. These iconic neighbors highlight the pedigree of the fruit, bringing together the district's signature dark fruit, earthy spice, and supple texture.

Winemaking:

Harvested at peak ripeness, the grapes were carefully destemmed and underwent a gentle cold soak to extract vibrant color and aromatics. Fermentation took place in small, temperature-controlled tanks to preserve nuance and depth. The wine was aged for 15 months in 40% new French oak barrels, building layers of complexity and finesse while showcasing the purity of Yamhill-Carlton fruit.

Tasting Note:

The 2024 Springbok Pinot Noir opens with ripe cherry, wild raspberry, blueberry, and violet, layered with subtle notes of forest floor, anise, and baking spice. On the palate, silky tannins frame a core of red fruits, blackberry, and dark plum, accented by savory umami and mineral lift. Bright acidity and a long, elegant finish make this a beautifully balanced expression of Yamhill-Carlton terroir.

