

# ERATH

W I N E R Y

*the Art of Pinot*

## HISTORY

- 1965 Dick Erath made his first barrel of wine – a Semillon from Livermore Valley made in the garage in Walnut Creek.
- 1967 Erath enrolled in courses at UC Davis and made wine from Oregon grapes in Walnut Creek.
- 1968 Erath moved to Oregon. He purchased his first vineyard site of 49 acres and settled into an un-heated logger's cabin with his family.
- 1969 To confirm which grapes would thrive, Erath planted a total of 23 different wine varieties including Pinot Noir, Gewürztraminer, and Riesling on four acres that Spring.
- 1972 Erath produced his first commercial wine of 216 cases in the basement of his house – the first official wine production in the Dundee Hills.
- The 1972 vintage Pinot Noir and Riesling won gold medals from the Seattle Enological Society.
- 1974 Erath continued to experiment with grape clones. He first began testing non-California clones in 1974. Erath was one of several Oregon winemakers who worked to facilitate the importation of French clones into Oregon.
- 1975 Erath partnered with Cal Knudsen to expand his winery and resources, and began the Knudsen-Erath label.
- 1976 Erath designed and built the winery.
- 1977 Erath spent six weeks touring the wineries and vineyards of France and Germany – he described as a “defining moment”.
- 1982 Knudsen-Erath began to expand beyond its 10,000 case production.
- The 1982 Pinot Noir inspired leading winemakers such as Ken Wright to move to Oregon to determine their own path in this place with world-class potential.
- 1983 Erath first planted at Prince Hill.
- 1984 1980 Pinot Noir Vintage Select named Best American Pinot Noir by *Wine & Spirits Magazine*.
- 1985 1983 Pinot Noir Vintage Select won Governor's Trophy at Oregon State Fair.
- 1987 First 35,000 case year and with extensive national distribution, Knudsen-Erath's Pinot Noir quickly became an international ambassador for the Oregon Pinot Noir industry.
- 1988 Erath bought out Cal Knudsen's interest and the Erath Vineyards label was restored.

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- 1994 Erath hired Rob Stuart as winemaker. Stuart was the first professional to share the title of winemaker with Dick Erath.
- They introduced several wines internationally, including Vintage Select, Reserve and single vineyard wines.
- 2003 Gary Horner was named winemaker, marking the first time Erath Vineyards wines were produced without Dick Erath sharing the title of winemaker. Erath gladly passed on the torch to Horner, who shared a background in science and a commitment to Oregon's unique terroir.
- 2006 As the winery continued to grow, it became apparent to Erath that the winery needed someone with big plans and high aspirations to carry the brand into the future. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates was the company that he believed could and would do that.
- In May 2006 Dick Erath sold the winery to Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.
- 2007 As part of the sales agreement, initial funding will be provided by Ste. Michelle Wine Estates for a charitable foundation established by Dick Erath to advance viticultural and enological science and education in Oregon.
- Wine Spectator* ranks the 2005 Estate Selection Pinot Noir #99 on its "Top 100" list, marking the first "Top 100" wine for Erath.
- 2009 Erath is awarded the 2008 Hot Prospect Brand Award from the trade publications *Impact* and *Market Watch* Magazines.
- Wine Enthusiast* names the 2006 Bishop Creek Pinot Noir - 92 points & Cellar Selection - #98 on Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2009.
- Wine & Spirits* named the 2006 Prince Hill Pinot Noir – 93 points – one of the Year's Best Pinot Noir.
- 2010 10 out of 10 Erath single vineyard Pinot Noirs from the 2006 vintage received ratings of 90 points or higher from the industry's top publications including the *Wine Advocate*, *Wine Spectator* and *Wine Enthusiast*.
- 2012 For a second time in the winery's history all single vineyard Pinot Noirs from a single vintage received ratings of 90 points or higher from top publications. All 11 single vineyard Pinot Noirs from the 2009 vintage earned the accolade.