

# ERATH

WINERY

## *the Art of Pinot*



*since 1967*

*1960's*

**1967**

Dick 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, then built and settled into an unheated logger's cabin with his family.

DICK ERATH AND SON ERIK



WINERY CONSTRUCTION

**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.



PIONEER DAYS



*1970's*

**1972**

Erath produced his first commercial wine of 216 cases in the basement of his house.

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**

Lumber magnate, Cal Knudsen, commissioned Erath to plant a vineyard for him. Soon after, Erath partnered with Knudsen to expand his winery and resources. They began the Knudsen-Erath label.

**1976**

Erath designed and built the winery—the first in the Dundee Hills.

**1977**

Erath spent six weeks touring the wineries and vineyards of France and Germany—he described as a “defining moment”.

*1980's*

**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.

1980 Pinot Noir Vintage Select named “America’s Best Pinot Noir”.



DUNDEE HILLS

**1985**

1983 Pinot Noir Vintage Select won Governor’s Trophy at the 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.

*1990's*

**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.

**1995**

Bottled and released a 25th Anniversary Pinot Noir Reserve to celebrate the first four acres planted in 1969.

**1996**

The 1995 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris took the Gold Medal and Best of Show for its varietal category at the L.A. County Fair’s International Wine Competition.

**1998**

The book *The Boys Up North: Dick Erath and the Early Oregon Winemakers*, written by Paul Pinterich, was published.

**2002**

Gary Horner was named winemaker, marking the first time Erath wines were produced without Dick Erath sharing the title of winemaker.

Bottled and released a 30th anniversary Pinot Noir Reserve, celebrating the very first vintage in 1972.

*2000's*

**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.



GARY HORNER, WINEMAKER

**2007**

As part of the sales agreement, initial funding was provided for a charitable foundation 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.

**2010**

10 out of 10 Erath single vineyard Pinot Noirs from the 2006 vintage received ratings of 90 points or higher from top wine publications.

**2012**

For a second time, all single vineyard Pinot Noirs from a single vintage (2009) received ratings of 90 points or higher from top publications.