



WALTER SCOTT

2022 Vintage - Celebrating Resilience

2022 will forever be etched in our memories as a celebration of the remarkable resilience of the grape vines. It was a year that tested the strength of our vineyards, challenging them with an unexpected frost, a cool and wet spring, and a prolonged absence of rainfall. Yet, amidst the adversity, the vineyards of the Willamette Valley stood tall, defying the odds with their 'life will find a way' tenacity. Equally inspiring were the unwavering efforts of our growers and passionate winemaking team. Together, we embraced Mother Nature's challenges, triumphing over each obstacle and forging a vintage that shines with exceptional quality.

Early April's spring frost stands out as a significant event. The warm March led to early bud break, leaving the vineyards vulnerable. The sudden drop in temperatures to the 20's affected young buds, especially in the northern part of the valley, low-elevation sites, and early-budding Chardonnay. This frost event was declared the worst economic disaster ever experienced by the region's wine industry.

Following the frost, cool and wet weather persisted until early June, causing a delay in vine growth. However, the vines rebounded beautifully, and successful flowering occurred in late June, coinciding with summer-like weather. Despite initial concerns about a limited harvest, the yields exceeded expectations, requiring thinning to ensure optimal ripeness. The Eola-Amity Hills, less affected by the frost, proceeded with a typical crop set in June. The rest of the growing season followed the expected pattern, with dry and warm conditions. Although a few heat spikes occurred, the overall temperatures remained moderate throughout the summer.

Due to the frost, the 2022 harvest was one of the latest in years. However, warm and dry weather prevailed from August through October, making it the 6th warmest vintage on record. Harvest started on September 26th and concluded just 17 days later, resulting in all of our fruit arriving at the winery all at once.

While different from the 2021 vintage, the quality of the wines remains consistent year after year. The 2022 wines will be approachable and generous upon release, showcasing concentration and structure due to lower yields. We are grateful to have experienced back-to-back vintages of such high quality.

As we reflect on 2022, we can't help but raise a glass to the rollercoaster ride of a vintage. Through it all, the vines displayed an indomitable spirit, determined to produce wines that are a testament to their resilience. We extend a huge thank you to our incredible growers as well as the friends and family who jumped in to help, all navigating the condensed picking schedule and proving that they have superhero-like skills.

So, here's to the 2022 vintage, a wild and wonderful tale of perseverance, passion, and a few eyebrow-raising moments. As you enjoy these special wines, take a moment to celebrate the resilience of both the grape vines and the slightly crazy but passionate people who made it all happen. Cheers!