

Lenne Fall 2024 Shipping Wine Club



Welcome back to another great Lenné wine club release! We've got a ton of info to impart about the new wines and recent vintages, so forgive the more text-dense format for this newsletter.

This release features six great Lenné pinot noirs, four of which are making their wine club debut. Of those new wines, three were crafted by our new winemaker, and we have themed this release to feature side-by-side comparisons between Steve and Jared's wines.

Total price = \$365 retail.

* Club 10% off (6b) = \$328.50.

* Club 20% off (12b) = \$584.

2022 Lenné Willamette Valley blend, \$50

The first Lenné wine made by our new winemaker, Jared Etzel. See page two of this newsletter for a summary of recent vintages, and more info on why this wine is not 100% sourced from the Lenné vineyard.

The 2022 WV Lenne is comprised of fruit from the Lenne Vineyard, Star Dance, and Star Mooring Vineyards.

The Lenné vineyard always produces powerful and concentrated wines and contributes blue and black fruit and depth to the blend. The Star Dance vineyard is a very cool and elegant site which brings high tone floral elements to the cuvee. The Star Mooring vineyard provides a deep mineral element and red tone fruits.

The wine was fermented by native yeast, aged 12 months in 30% new French oak barrels, and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. It is a very fresh, balanced and accessible cuvee that doesn't require a long cellaring or decanting to reach its prime drinking window.

I had a great time blending this wine, bringing the strengths of each of these vineyards together to produce a harmonious and very expressive blend. –Jared Etzel

2021 Lenné Estate pinot noir, \$50

Our flagship wine from a great vintage. This year's blend was made with 65% of the Pommard clone, and the balance from Dijon 114, 115, and 667. It's a great wine to compare with the 2022 WV Blend, and we've poured them side-by-side all Summer in our tasting room.

2021 Cuvee Constance pinot noir, \$75

A new wine makes its debut. This was made by our founding winemaker, Steve Lutz, for the new owners. It was bottled along with the other Lenne 2021 pinots in August 2022, but not labeled until May 2024 once our new logo was finalized, and is just now making its debut.

This wine is a fantastic one-off that exemplifies our founding winemaker's style, and profiles a bit like a bigger, bolder version of our famed *Cinq Elus* blend. Steve created the Cuvee Constance by sampling wine from the tanks of seven other 2021 pinots. It contains:

- 21.43% Lenné Estate
- 14.29% Eleanor's 114 Dijon clone
- 14.29% Jill's 115 Dijon clone
- 14.29% Karen's Pommard clone
- 14.29% Kill Hill
- 14.29% South Slope Select
- 7.14% LeNez pinot noir

This wine is excellent now, with dark jammy fruit notes and a rich mouthfeel. It will gain considerable complexity and balance if given a few years bottle aging.

2022 Lenné Star Dance vineyard pinot noir, \$70

Star Dance is a Yamhill-Carlton vineyard located 5 miles Northwest of Lenné Estate. High elevation, peavine soil, and a majority of the Pommard clone gives it a very similar vibe to Lenne's boldest pinot noirs.

2021 South Slope Select pinot noir, \$60

Steve's favorite blend, combining Pommard and Dijon 115 (it's basically half Karen's and half Jill's).

2023 South Slope Select pinot noir, \$60

Our first 2023 release, this wine is 100% Lenné Estate fruit. Glowing purple and vibrant, with tangy fruit and solid minerality.

These two years of South Slope will be a great comparison, once the 2023 matures with a bit more time in the bottle. The vintages were similar, with warm sunny weather and big fruit sets that will show great fruit notes and bold textures.

Lenné Winemaker Comparison

Steve Lutz made Lenné wines through the 2021 vintage. Steve's goal was the biggest, boldest, fruitiest pinot noir possible, designed for lengthy bottle aging. He inoculated commercial yeast into the fermentation tanks for a more rapid fermentation, and typically barreled with a higher % of new oak to create pinot noir that showed very fruity and full-bodied when young. Steve strongly recommends bottle aging at least 3 years, and thinks they hit their prime 8+ years after bottling. See his vintage chart on our website for drinking/aging recommendations.

Jared Etzel took over as Lenné's winemaker in the 2022 vintage. Jared's approach is to craft fruit-forward and bold wines with exceptional balance. He uses native yeast for a more gradual fermentation process, varies the barreling time from vintage to vintage, and bottles the wine unfinned/unfiltered, which creates a richer mouthfeel and texture. Jared feels his wines are beautiful and balanced right out of the barrel, and they will only grow richer and denser with bottle aging time.



Vintage Rundown

2018. A hot year with a small crop created lush, bold, dark-fruited wines. Tannic and powerful upon release, 2018s have gained balance in the bottle, while still showing jammy and powerful fruit notes. The 2018 Sad Jack is the last remaining wine we have from this very popular vintage.

2019. A cooler year with intervals of light rain during the Summer, these wines show amazing velvety and earthy texture, with dark, rich, herbal notes.

"This Vintage reminds me of the 2016 vintage, the wines have this pretty black fruit and violet aromatics. They are all destined for stardom if you have the patience and all of them will easily improve over the next decade. One of the top four vintages we have ever produced."

--Steve Lutz, winemaker

2021. Bright acidity with rich, dark fruit. An all time vintage.

"Even ripening and moderate weather produced a classic Oregon Pinot Noir vintage. The wines are full of bright cherry and chocolate notes, and are very drinkable even now. They are moderate in color but full of juicy cherry and mocha notes with gorgeous texture. You can drink all these wines tonight and enjoy them but they will age well over a decade. The Sad Jack is the best we have ever produced."

--Steve Lutz, winemaker

2022. The most challenging growing year since 2011. A cold Spring culminated with several inches of snow in late April. May & June continued dank, and by mid-July the vines were 6 weeks behind their usual ripening pace. Thankfully, when Summer arrived, it kicked in the door. We saw a record number of days above 90° during August and September, and the warm and dry continued into October. We harvested the grapes over Oct 18-21st, about a month later than usual.

The fruit that ripened was very good. Unfortunately a lot of the berries did not fertilize (*millerandage*) during the cold and wet Spring, and we also suffered some powdery mildew due to the damp. We used only the best of the fruit, leaving over half the vineyard unharvested, and supplemented our Estate fruit with purchases from three other premium vineyards in the Yamhill-Carlton and nearby Chehalem Mountains AVA.

2023. A great vintage, with moderately hot temps and plenty of sun, much like 2021. Lenné wines are 100% estate fruit in the 2023 vintage, and early tasters have found them remarkably fruity and enticing. (We shared the 2023 South Slope as a mystery pour at our wine club pickup party in late July, and the feedback was glowing.)