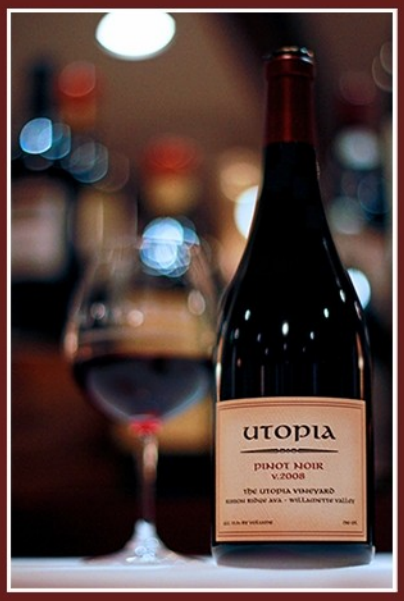
UTOPIA

VINEYARD

Press Kit



About Utopia Vineyard

Utopia Vineyard is the embodiment of a dream that began in the mind of its owner, Daniel Warnshuis, more than a decade ago.

HOW THE VINEYARD CAME TO BE

Utopia Estate Vineyard was born in 2000 after talks with Oregon growers at the International Pinot Noir Celebration led Daniel on a search for a vineyard site. He found a parcel located near the top of Ribbon Ridge that seemed ideal, and subsequent soil tests proved it to be so. The Utopia Estate Vineyard is perfectly situated at an elevation of five hundred feet in the heart of the Ribbon Ridge Appellation in the Northern Willamette Valley in Yamhill County, Oregon. It consists of a total of 16.8 acres of sloping contiguous south-facing hillsides of Willakenzie soils.

WHY IT'S GREAT

Careful attention to every detail from the vine to the bottle is essential. Utopia is fortunate to have an outstanding vineyard team that includes veteran vineyard manager Stirling Fox formerly of Willamette Valley Vineyards. All of the practices that he and Daniel oversee on the vineyard are designedto support sustainable farming and by extension, high level quality fruit production. Utopia was L.I.V.E. certified in 2010 and therefore follows international standards of sustainable viticulture. The vineyard is dry-farmed because the holistic nature of this practice ensures grape quality, complexity of flavor and water conservation. Through dry farming, the deep growing plants interact with the microbes in the soil, absorbing nutrients and minerals that contribute to an increased complexity and structure in thefinished product. Come harvest, the fruit is handpicked and the time from when a clusterof grapes is picked to arrival at the winery is less than one hour.

WHERE WE ARENOW

Daniel's first commercial vintage produced just 413 cases in 2006. It was a good start, but the 2007 was even better, winning the Grand Award of Excellence, the Gold Medal in the 2010 Oregon Wine Awards for Pinot Noir over $35. Subsequent vintages have continued to improve and the first private reserve release, Paradise, was produced as part of the 2009 vintage. In addition to world class Pinot Noir, Utopia also produces Estate Chardonnay and a Pinot Noir Rose, vinified in a Bandol style. A well-appointed tasting room was added in 2011 with outdoor seating and two competition bocce ball courts.

Oregon Wine Awards:

2007 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir – Gold

2008 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir – Double Gold

2009 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir - Gold
2009 Utopia Estate Reserve "Paradise" - Silver

2010 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir - Silver
2010 Utopia Estate Reserve "Paradise" - Silver
2010 Utopia Estate Reserve Clone 777" - Double Gold

2011 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir - Gold
2011 Utopia Estate Reserve "Paradise" - Silver
2011 Utopia Estate Reserve "Clone 777" - Gold

2012 Utopia Estate Chardonnay - Silver
2012 Utopia Estate Reserve "Paradise" - Gold
2012 Utopia Estate Reserve Clone 777" - Gold
2012 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir - Bronze

2013 Utopia Estate Chardonnay - Double Gold

Oregon's 50 Best Wines:

2008 Utopia Estate Pinot Noir
2009 Utopia Estate Private Reserve Pinot Noir "Paradise"
2012 Utopia Estate Chardonnay

In 2014 Utopia was honored to be selected by the IPNC to be one of their featured wineries. The IPNC is a three day event famous around the globe as a mecca for lovers of Pinot Noir.

Delectable.com:

To find more reviews about our award winning wines go to Delectable.com and type in Utopia.

Daniel Warnshuis Biography

Daniel Warnshuis has a competitive spirit, which drives him in all areas of his life. Daniel grew up with five brothers, a sister and many cousins around, and he had a self-described "Huck- Finn kind of experience" in California's San Joaquin Valley, where he spent a lot of time outdoors camping with his family. In High school, Daniel was an All-American swimmer and worked as a lifeguard for the California State Parks.

Daniel attended Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. He received a full scholarship to swim at Michigan State and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Daniel is proud of his accomplishments in swimming as it enabled him to attend a prestigious university, which opened doors for everything else he has accomplished in his career and instilled in him the passion and determination needed to accomplish his goals

After college, Daniel relocated to the Silicon Valley and began working for Cisco Systems and Sun Microsystems, however it was living in wine country (Napa Valley) that made him quickly realize his ardor for great food and wine. He immediately began dreaming of creating his own wine label and world class brand. Business trips took him to the Pacific Northwest, and he quickly fell in love with the Pinot Noir of the Willamette Valley.

Utopia became a family owned producer of small-lot, handcrafted wines, with a special emphasis on world-class Pinot Noir. They are a boutique winery, producing small lots of a few hundred cases each year of several different Estate Pinot-noirs. In addition to Pinot Noir, Utopia also makes a hearty, dry Rose in a Bandol style and began producing an Estate Chardonnay in 2012.

Daniel loves competing with some of the best wineries in the world and strives to produce world-class wine that will make Utopia one of the best wineries in the world. He lives on the winery with his wife, three daughters and two English Springer Spaniels, the informal mascots of Utopia.