

KNUDSEN

VINEYARDS

Press Kit



Knudsen Vineyard is a storied winegrowing property in the Willamette Valley founded in 1971. A family endeavor then and now, the 230-acre landholding in the heart of the Dundee Hills AVA has grown some of the most sought-after grapes in the region for over 53 years. It is one of the most iconic vineyards in the Willamette Valley, too: the state's Wine Country license plate features a colorful painting of Knudsen Vineyards. Led by the second generation since 2009, Knudsen Vineyards produces a terroir-driven line of still and sparkling Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines. In 2020, the Knudsen family opened their first tasting room on the property to share this historic site with the public, welcoming guests from near and far for tastings, special events, and educational vineyard hikes.



FOUNDING FAMILY

In the late 1960s, C. Calvert “Cal” Knudsen and his wife Julia Lee returned from a trip to France entirely captivated by the winegrowing regions of Burgundy and Champagne. A lawyer and timber products executive by profession, Cal intuited and researched now proven similarities between the Willamette Valley and Burgundy. That vision led him to purchase a 230-acre former walnut orchard, with two south and east-facing slopes, located in the center of what became the Dundee Hills AVA.

Established in 1971, Knudsen Vineyard was founded as a family endeavor, so Cal and Julia Lee could provide an opportunity for the four Knudsen children – Page, Cal Jr., Colin, and David – to learn the winegrowing business and develop a connection with the land. Against the backdrop of a nascent Willamette Valley wine industry, Cal met Dick Erath, another pioneer of grape growing and winemaking in the region. In 1972, planting began, with Cal directing and consulting from his office, and Dick providing the expertise and labor on the ground.



In 1975, Cal and Dick formed Knudsen Erath Winery, the first commercial scale bonded winery in the Dundee Hills. The winery partnership ended amicably in 1987, so amicably that Dick bought the buildings, leased the ground from Knudsen on which the buildings stood, and continued to operate on site as Erath Winery. That same year, the former Dundee Wine Company, now Argyle Winery, was established in Dundee, with Rollin Soles as Head Winemaker and General Manager. Cal loved Champagne and believed the region could produce exceptional examples of *méthode champenoise* sparkling wines. He partnered with Rollin and Knudsen Vineyard and became Argyle’s founding source for high-elevation Pinot noir and Chardonnay for sparkling and still wines.

For more than 30 years, Cal was a cheerleader for the emerging wine industry in the Willamette Valley. His positivity and innovative spirit helped lay the foundation for a wine region where the overwhelming feeling remains one of collaboration over competition. When Cal died in 2009, his four children inherited the vineyard. There was no question about keeping it in the family to honor and embrace their parents' legacy.

WINEMAKING

In 2012, the four Knudsen siblings brought more attention to their family vineyard with the decision to make wine under their eponymous label, **Knudsen Vineyards**. Equally owned by the four siblings, Knudsen Vineyards enlisted Argyle winemaker Nate Klostermann, who oversaw winemaking for the family brand's next ten vintages. The second and third generation of the Knudsen family always worked in partnership with Nate on final blending decisions every year, ensuring that each vintage of Knudsen Vineyards reflects the true character of the family's storied vineyard.

In 2022, Argyle's own wine production began to outsize their winery's physical capacity, an indication of both the brand's immense success as well as that of the larger region. Similarly, the expansion and popularity of Knudsen Vineyards wines precipitated a need for growing production space. The longtime friends and partners mutually agreed that the future of Knudsen Vineyards would be in excellent hands at Vinovate Custom Wine Services, the Dundee Hills' brand new, state-of-the-art winemaking facility founded by Rob Townsend and helmed by lauded Oregon winemakers Bryan Weil and Kate Payne-Brown.

Bryan and Kate each bring impressive Oregon winemaking experience at some of the region's most beloved and successful wineries. Bryan previously led winemaking at Alexana Winery, where he earned a coveted top 10 spot among Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines of 2021. Kate led Stoller Family Estate's Reserve Winery, launched its sparkling wine program, and grew the winery's 'Legacy' wine portfolio, the finest wines in Stoller's collection. Both Bryan and Kate are exceptional stewards of the high-quality winemaking the Dundee Hills are known for, and the duo has undertaken Knudsen Vineyards' production beginning with the 2023 vintage.

Knudsen Vineyards offers a focused line of limited-production premium Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines as well as sparkling rosé, rosé of Pinot noir, and blanc de blancs sparkling

bottlings that are sold directly to consumers, as well as through a developing network of distributors. All wines are estate-grown.



A SINGULAR SITE

Across 230 total acres in the Dundee Hills AVA, Knudsen Vineyard lies between 520 feet and 1,000 feet above sea level. With two south and east-facing slopes, the vineyard is protected from cooler maritime influences to the west and cold winter winds from the Columbia River Gorge to the northeast. The soil composition is exclusively volcanic Jory, the signature clay of the region – a red-colored, iron-rich, silt clay loam formed from decomposed ancient basalt. One of the first vineyards in the Dundee Hills, Knudsen Vineyard is located in the center of the AVA's geographical boundaries and at the heart of the winemaking region.

The family grows heritage and Dijon clones, with a focus on 666, 777, 828, 115 and Pommard for Pinot noir, and 76, 95 and 96 for Chardonnay. Some of Knudsen's Chardonnay clones are the oldest Dijon plantings in the New World, dating to 1990. All told, the plantings are around 70% Pinot noir and 30% Chardonnay, and an additional small parcel of high elevation Pinot meunier vines.

With more than 125 acres planted and producing, the vineyard reflects a variety of planting decisions over the decades. Variations in row spacing, density of plantings, rootstock upgrades, clonal selections, row orientation, cover crop decisions, a range of elevations and drip irrigation available across the entire vineyard – these are just some of the attributes that differentiate this unique property.

SUSTAINABILITY & FARMING

For almost 40 years, Knudsen Vineyard leaned on the viticultural knowledge and experience of Allen Holstein, Argyle Winery's longtime Senior Vineyard Manager. Geoff Hall followed in Allen's footsteps at Argyle as Head of Viticulture, with Erica Miller arriving thereafter. The Knudsen family has instituted a multi-year sustainability program and works with Erica and her crew to monitor water usage, crop load and disease pressures – all with an emphasis on vine balance and sustainability. The Knudsen family also embarked on an ambitious, long-term replanting program in 2004 to replace own-rooted vines with disease-resistant rootstock and improved clonal material.

Since the beginning, Knudsen Vineyard has been farmed with a commitment to the long-term health of the land. The vineyard is **LIVE Certified and Salmon Safe** and is managed using modern viticultural techniques informed by more than 50 years of record-keeping and intimate knowledge of the site.

Knudsen Vineyard is a proud participant in the **Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project (PBRP)**, a nonprofit and volunteer-led effort to protect and restore populations of the Western Bluebird in the Willamette Valley.

Following decades of conservation efforts, Knudsen Vineyard is also a **Certified Family Forest designated by the American Tree Farm System**, an independent body working to sustain forests, watersheds, and native wildlife habitats. Roughly 50 acres, or approximately 20%, of the Knudsen family property remains forested and rich with native flora and fauna.

WINES

Wines from Knudsen Vineyards display exemplary characteristics of Dundee Hills wines – balanced and structured, with fresh acidity, generous aromatics and bright fruit. Consistency is a hallmark of Knudsen Vineyards wines, a result of the family blending process. In addition to the current offerings below, Knudsen Vineyards keeps a small inventory of back vintages in library to highlight the wines' graceful ageability.

INTRODUCING KNUDSEN VINEYARDS' INAUGURAL ESTATE BLANC DE BLANCS



2024 marks an important milestone for Knudsen Vineyards: the highly anticipated release of its first-ever *méthode traditionnelle* sparkling wine, an estate blanc de blancs from the 2020 vintage.

Knudsen Vineyard fruit has been sourced by the Willamette Valley's top sparkling wine producers since the 1980s. Founder Cal Knudsen held a deep affection for sparkling wines made in the traditional method, and particularly for Champagne. He believed that the Willamette Valley had the potential to produce sparkling wines of similar quality and built a reputation for Knudsen Vineyard as a prized source for grapes grown in ideal conditions for sparkling production that endures today.

For the first time in its fifty-year plus history, Knudsen Vineyards is set to release its first ever estate sparkling wine under its own label—the Knudsen Vineyards 2020 Blanc de Blancs—a *méthode traditionnelle* sparkling wine crafted from 100% estate-grown Knudsen Vineyard Chardonnay.

The introduction of an estate sparkling wine program has been a longtime aspiration of the Knudsen family's second generation as a way of honoring the previous one.

This very special, extremely limited Blanc de Blancs will have spent four years en tirage upon the release of its 150-case production later this year. The inaugural sparkling wine is the first of many in a new pillar for Knudsen Vineyards' annual production, and one that comes full circle with Cal Knudsen's vision for the vineyard.

A one-day public release of the 2020 Blanc de Blancs is planned to coincide with Knudsen Vineyards' Annual Harvest Party on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at which point the remaining case production will be allocated to wine club members and then to the winery's webstore.

FAMILY SERIES

The Knudsen Vineyards Family Series focuses on estate-grown cuvées of Chardonnay, and Pinot noirs crafted in both rosé and full red expressions.



2023 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS FAMILY SERIES SPARKLING ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR

The first sparkling wine release crafted by new winemakers Brian Weil and Kate Payne-Brown, this sparkling rosé of estate Pinot noir was made by gently pressing whole berries and then cold-fermenting to capture the most delicate aromas and flavors. After a two month maturation process in neutral oak barrels, a 4.5g/L dosage was added and the wine was carbonated during the bottling process.

Retail price: \$45.



2023 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS FAMILY SERIES ROSÉ OF PINOT NOIR

This estate Oregon Pinot Noir Rosé embodies the essence of summertime in every sip. Perfect for picnics, patio gatherings, or simply savoring the moment.

Retail price: \$35.



2021 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS FAMILY SERIES DUNDEE HILLS CHARDONNAY

A refreshing shade of pale lemon, this wine is reminiscent of a Spring day with aromas of cut grass, fresh linen and lemon zest. Flavors of subtle citrus marry crisp green apple and juicy fruit for a perfect palate match; gently enhanced with floral dandelion, straw and shortbread notes. Aged in 20% new oak barrels, this delicate yet complex Chardonnay has a lasting finish with just the right hint of oak. Retail price: \$55.



2021 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS FAMILY SERIES
DUNDEE HILLS PINOT NOIR

This wine captures Knudsen Vineyard in a glass, by including all clones of Pinot noir that we grow, and from elevations ranging from 520 to 1,000 feet. This youthful estate blend showcases lovely robust fruit and spice as well as savory notes to aid in long-term aging. Retail price: \$55.

FOUNDERS SERIES

Knudsen Vineyards' Founders Series features two wines, one Chardonnay and one Pinot noir, inspired by and named in honor and memory of Founders C. Calvert and Julia Lee Knudsen.



2019 FOUNDERS SERIES
JLK CHARDONNAY

A rare selection and the only wine made from one single block in 2019, this wine celebrates the beautiful flavor profile of Chardonnay clone 95. The stunning golden hue delivers aromas of stone fruit, straw and spring flowers. Flavors of honeycomb, chamomile, white peach and lemon cream are evenly distributed with mid-palate acidity and hints of crème brûlée. Retail price: \$90.



2019 FOUNDERS SERIES
CCK PINOT NOIR

A beautiful ruby red in the glass, this decadent Pinot noir conveys the essence of a classic Dundee Hills Pinot noir. A velvety, rich palate is interwoven with flavors of bittersweet chocolate, strawberry and cherry cola. Subtle earth notes are nicely carried throughout with a long, smooth finish. Retail price: \$90.

TALKING BLOCKS SERIES

The Talking Block Series wines offer unique interpretations of the Knudsen estate in the Dundee Hills. Each bottling amplifies an individual voice among the mingling chorus of the vineyard, zooming in on the fascinating characteristics born of single vineyard blocks or clonal selections, or of vine age, varying elevation, and aspect. *Examples from the collection include:*



2022 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS

SNAPSHOT PINOT NOIR - “Time and place in a bottle”

Sourced from the youngest Pinot noir vines, we found that two adjacent blocks (Blocks 12 and 13) defined a youthful, bold, and approachable blend; perfectly paired for the “Snapshot” label. As the name suggests, this 2-block blend of Pinot noir is a limited production bottling representing just 8 barrels. Retail price: \$72



2022 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS

BACKSTORY PINOT NOIR - “Our past, always present”

Paying tribute to the Knudsen Vineyards backstory, this Pinot noir bottling features fruit from two adjacent blocks planted almost 20 years ago at the higher elevation locations on Knudsen’s Dundee Hills estate. Retail price: \$75



2022 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS

THROUGHLINE PINOT NOIR - “Crafted with a Common Thread”

This special bottle captures the conversation between two diverse Pinot noirs produced on Southeast-facing plots planted just one year apart in the heart of the vineyard. Retail price: \$72



2021 KNUDSEN VINEYARDS

PLOT TWIST CHARDONNAY - “The Element of Surprise”

The inaugural vintage of this bottling, the 2021 Plot Twist Chardonnay features fruit from two strikingly similar blocks of the Knudsen Vineyard, blocks 28 and 29, which share nearly identical elevation, aspect, vine age, and rootstock but are planted to two different Dijon clones: clone 96 and clone 76, respectively. The wine expresses tropical aromas of mango, pineapple, and nectarine and a luxuriously long finish. Retail price: \$72

HOSPITALITY



Opened in 2020 to welcome guests to the historic Knudsen estate vineyard for the first time in its history, The Outlook at Knudsen Vineyard offers sweeping vineyard views and a collection of thoughtful tasting and wine and food pairing experiences by reservation, though walk-ins are also welcomed.

DAILY OUTLOOK TASTING

Offered daily to groups of one to six guests, Knudsen Vineyard’s flagship seated tasting experience includes a flight of four Knudsen Vineyards estate wines and an attentive wine educator dedicated to each group. *Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made via [Tock](#). \$35/person; tasting fees waived with one bottle purchase per guest.*

CHAPTERS, A FOOD & WINE EXPERIENCE

Indulge in a food and wine pairing experience that explores the chapters of the Knudsen Vineyards story. Focused on Knudsen's Talking Blocks Series, this special tasting experience includes a focused exploration of estate Chardonnay and Pinot noirs alongside a pairing menu of small bites specially curated by Chef Sandy Holt of Taste of Excellence.

Reservations required via [Tock](#). \$65/person; \$20 per person deposit required at time of booking.



VINEYARD HIKE & LUNCH

Join a talented Knudsen wine educator (and sometimes Page Knudsen herself!) for a vineyard hike featuring beautiful views, a tasting of Knudsen Vineyards wines, and an optional picnic-style lunch. Weave through 50-year-old Pinot noir vineyard rows, see the differences between grape vines of different varieties, and learn about the impacts of soil type, elevation, and aspect on finished wines. *Reservations required via [Tock](#). Hikes conducted rain or shine; allow 2-3 hours. \$55/person for hike and wine tasting; \$75/person with optional lunch addition. Offered April - November, Friday - Monday at 11:00am.*

GARDEN BRUNCH & WINE TASTING

Enjoy a private wine tasting and brunch offering in Knudsen's charming garden overlooking the estate vineyard and Cascade Mountain range in the distance. Brunch includes a seasonally-inspired frittata, side salad, fresh fruit, and yogurt parfait. *Reservations required via [Tock](#). Offered daily with last seating at 11:30am. \$55/person includes food and wine tasting. Adults 21+ over only.*

WINERY EVENTS



Circa 1974

ANNUAL HARVEST PARTY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

A beloved tradition, the Annual Harvest Party gathers the Knudsen family's second and third generations for a public celebration of the upcoming harvest. Wine club members and fans from near and far enjoy an open house style event featuring live music, a harvest-inspired culinary menu, and new and special wine selections. *Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm; tickets required and available via [Tock](#) for \$50/person.*

KNUDSEN VINEYARD INFORMATION

Founded: 1971

Region: Dundee Hills AVA, Willamette Valley, Oregon

Estate acreage: 230

Acres planted: 125

Varieties Grown: Chardonnay, Pinot noir, Pinot meunier

Elevation: 520 - 1,000 ft.

Owners: Page Knudsen Cowles, Colin R. Knudsen, David C. Knudsen, Cal Knudsen, Jr.

Winemakers: Bryan Weil & Kate Payne-Brown at Vinovate Custom Wine Services (as of harvest 2023)

The Outlook at Knudsen Vineyard

Location: 9419 NE Worden Hill Road, Dundee, OR 97115

Open: daily, 10:30am to 4:30pm

Reservations via [Tock](#), but walk-ins welcome

For more information, or to book a reservation, please visit knudsenvineyards.com.

