

J. K. Carriere

W I N E S

2021 Vespidae

Willamette Valley Pinot Noir



Thesis: Still rivers run deep

A Story: *Vespidae* (ves-puh-day): Latin name of the family of wasp trying to kill me.

The Cliff Notes: The color is red garnet. The nose throws red ribbon candy and Christmas spice before delving deeper: coffee, earth, forest floor and black pepper. The attack is more vibrant and red than the nose suggests, all raspberry and cherry Zotz. In the mouth this red fruit river lingers, flows, cutting an ever-deeper pool through a primordial canyon of peaches, past beef jerky rapids and eventually tailing out and depositing your palate on a light sand beach.

The Vintage: Overall, 2021 was a reasonably warm growing year yielding a quasi-smallish crop. It started dry, with rains ending in March instead of May/June. A historic, late June heat dome pushed temps as high as 114 degrees, followed by a lesser dome in mid-July. We expected a crucible, and experienced some slight leaf burn, but the grapes, lucky to be in green growth, basically shut down and took a ten-day hiatus without too much affect. At harvest, where we would've expected high sugars or raisining, we were pleasantly surprised by balanced sugars and acids, plus tasty.

The Building of: Three ton, wild-yeast fermentations in wood and stainless steel, 100% barrel aged for 15 months: 10% new, 29% one year, 61% two year or older. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered in December 2022.

Ageability: Get it some air in the first three years. This wine should climb in complexity beyond ten years.

Vineyards: This is our flagship bottling representing three great vineyards. In 2021 its lead is our structured and juicy **St. Dolores Estate** (13 years) at 48%, followed by the lush fruit of holistically farmed **Johan Vineyard** (20 years) at 29%, and finishing with the linear acid of old-vine **Temperance Hill** (41 years) at 23%. **All our vineyards are dryland farmed.**

— Jim Prosser, owner/winemaker

Alcohol: 13.0%
pH: 3.52
Cases produced 729
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