

Brassfield Estate 2022 Pinot Noir Reserve

Brassfield Estate wines reflect the distinctness and diversity of our vineyards – from the elevated valley floor of High Serenity Ranch to the lofty and secluded Volcano Ridge. With cool marine breezes, volcanic soils and high elevations ranging from 1800 ft. to 3000 ft, High Valley’s unique transverse geography makes this AVA an unparalleled North Coast wine growing region. The eastern and southern regions of High Valley boast views of the largest natural lake in California, Clearlake. Additionally, Lake County claims the title of the best air quality in the state. Brassfield Estate wines are fruit-driven, balanced and delicious. Our Winemaker, Carlos Valadez, has generational roots at Brassfield Estate and is focused on certified sustainable viticulture practices and classic winemaking techniques.



ALCOHOL: 13.5 % | **pH:** 3.74 | **COMPOSITION:** 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARD:

Pinot Noir benefits from a unique terroir found here at Brassfield Estate, four vineyard blocks nestled within a westward-facing box canyon. Strategically positioned beneath a saddle in the ridge, the descent of cool coastal air from the west makes this the coolest vineyard site in High Valley. This vineyard thrives on soil formed from ancient lakeshore and alluvial deposits. The cultivars are a blend of Dijon clones arranged northeast to southwest, ensuring optimal sun exposure, critical to grape development. All these factors work synergistically to produce a Pinot Noir with more intense varietal character, notable color extraction, and excellent acid retention.

WINEMAKING:

Here at Brassfield Estate, our winemaking emphasizes quality and the use of traditional handcrafted techniques, which create wines that have both power and finesse. We hand-picked the grapes for our Reserve Pinot Noir in the early morning to optimize fruit integrity. Fruit from each block is kept separate to increase the complexity and preserve varietal character. We then crushed and transferred the fruit to our two open top oak fermenters and small stainless tanks. We used twice daily punch downs to keep fermentation healthy. The wine was then barreled down to undergo malolactic fermentation in our extensive wine caves. To showcase the fruit and structure of this wine, we aged it in 25% new French Oak and 75% neutral barrels and stainless tanks. Sur lie aging with battonage (lees stirring) once a month created additional body, texture and viscosity in the wine. This wine was lightly fined and bottled with minimal filtration to preserve aromatics and maximize quality.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2022 Pinot Noir Reserve opens with an inviting reduction, offering a hint of savory complexity that invites further exploration. On the nose, delicate notes of clove interlace with the subtle richness of oak-dried cherries, creating an intriguing aromatic profile. As the wine unfolds on the palate, it reveals a vibrant cranberry acidity that provides a refreshing contrast to its otherwise rich character. The texture is light-bodied yet compelling, with firm tannins that lend structure and depth to each sip. An aged leather truffle undertone adds a layer of sophistication, enhancing the wine’s complexity. The finish is remarkably long, leaving a lasting impression of nuanced flavors and a pleasing echo of the initial aromatic elements. This Pinot Noir Reserve is a beautifully balanced wine, showcasing elegance and depth with a memorable conclusion.