

Selected Wineries & Vineyards of Oregon

Treasures of Oregon



The Willamette Valley is the largest and most respected AVA in Oregon; nevertheless, some outstanding wines are produced in other Oregon AVAs too. Although I have left out a few treasures on the Oregon wine scene the purpose of my selection has been to highlight some eco-friendly innovators and to show the diversity within the Oregon wine industry.

The King Estate offers some of the most

spectacular wines that I have tasted in a long time. The Willamette Valley Vineyards offers fantastic grape typical varietals at excellent prices. "Domaine Serene topped Domaine de la Romanée Conti in a blind tasting of 3 wines from each producer in vintages 1998, 1999, and 2000. Domaine Serene wines placed first, second and third in 1998 and 1999 and first and second in 2000." Cristom has continually set the mark for others to achieve. Their wines

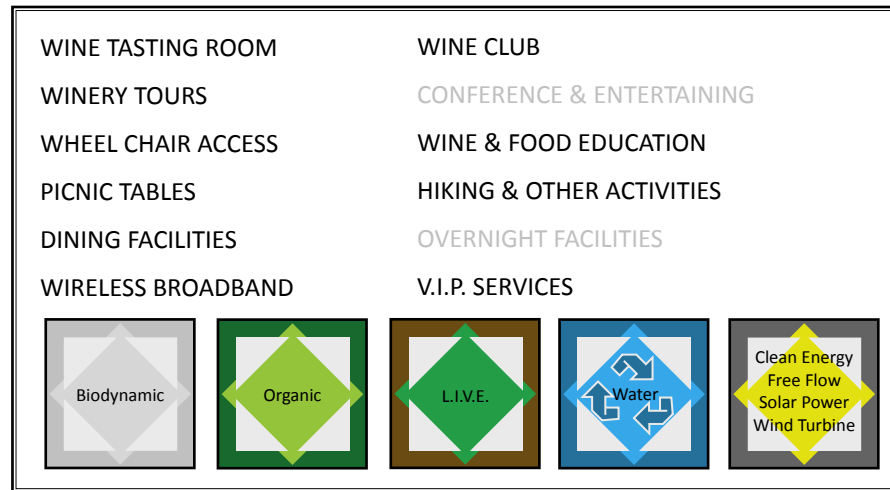
are outstanding and if you ask any winemaker in Oregon which winemaker they respect most, the vast majority will say Steve at Cristom. Adelsheim produce some wonderful varietals showing elegance and finesse. Sokol Blosser, the leaders in eco-friendly winemaking in Oregon for decades also make some tremendous wines. Beaux Frères with their biodynamic and organic approach make some very interesting wines. Torri Mor, committed to "Green

Building” and organic wines, produce some brilliant wines. The list can go on: Hawks View Vineyards, Archery Summit, Bergström, Domaine Drouhin, Lange Estate Winery & Vineyards, Amity Vineyards, WillaKenzie, Penner-Ash Wine Cellars, Erath, Elk Cove, St Innocent Winery, Shafer Vineyard Cellars, Ponzi Vineyards, Argyle, Lemleson, Anne Amie, Bethel Heights, Rex Hill, Duck Pond Cellars... There are literally 100 vineyards that deserve special recognition for their outstanding eco-friendly programs and tremendous wines.

Most producers in Oregon practice organic farming with a sustainable, eco-friendly program proving that environmentally conscious producers can make some of the world’s best wines. I have included a key at the beginning of the selected winery. This key should help to provide you with a quick eco-friendly reference guide pertaining to each vineyard. This book does not require vineyards to complete the required probationary period (which in some cases are 3 years); however, I do require that they follow the guidelines established by the various certifications.



Torii Mor Vineyard & Winery



History: Originally planted in 1972, its vineyard terroir is one of the oldest in the Dundee Hills. Twenty-one years later, in 1993, Torii Mor was founded by the renowned neurological surgeon Dr. Donald Olson and his wife Margie. Don and Margie initially purchased the vineyard and winery to showcase its uniqueness. This has proven to be a good thing as Torii Mor has developed from a mere 1,000 cases per annum to more than 15,000 cases in 2007.

This “Grand Cru” in the Dundee Hills focuses

on the natural quality of Pinot Noir, maintaining terroir and individual lot uniqueness. I had the privilege of tasting through their barrels for the last two consecutive years and I was extremely impressed with their dedication to maintain the terroir characteristics in their wines. Their artisan, handcrafted approach has produced wines that rival the best in the world.

Wishing to portray this unique soil that the vines thrive on, Dr. Olson created the TORII MOR name. After a great deal of re-

flection “Torii,” which refers to the ornate gates most often seen at the entrances to Japanese gardens and “Mor”, an ancient Scandinavian word for earth, were combined. The romantic image of the “Gate to the Earth Space” or passageway to beautiful things emerged. It could be argued that

Large Photo: A view from the terrace overlooking the Olson vineyard at Torii Mor. **Inserted Picture:** Torii Mor’s Aquafir, which is more than 5,000’ below the surface, produces excellent pure natural water free from modern day pollutants.





Pinot Noir, more than any other varietal, best shows terroir and could then be seen as the gateway to the earth.

Eco-orientation: As the saying goes, “It’s all in the name,” well, that is the case with Torii Mor’s anyway. It means “Gate to the Earth” and reflects their commitment to organic and sustainable farming. Torii Mor has its own water recycling plant, solar energy panels providing over 90,000 kwh of electricity, a water cooling wall, and their winery building has gone green. By green I mean LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, which means that the building is designed using the latest environmentally friendly techniques. A gravity flow winemaking process has also been installed – from the tanks into the sub-terrain barrel cellar. Recently, Torii Mor also committed to going “carbon neutral.”

Acreage & Grapes: Olson Estate (20 acres/8 ha) Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc & Pinot

***Pictures from Top Left (1):** A view of the Japanese Haiku House Tasting Room, providing an intimate and social setting. (2): A wine tasting group in the Japanese garden at Torii Mor. (3): The Peace (Heiwa) Bell is a symbol for peace and harmony and stands adjacent to the Japanese gardens. (4): A view of Torri Mor Winery. It is “LEED” and Carbon-neutral” certified.*

Gris); Hawks View (cc.acres / ha Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir etc.).

Production: Total production of around 15,000 nine bottle cases. 10,000 cases of Pinot Noir, 2,000 cases of Pinot Gris, 2,000 cases of Pinot Blanc, and others.

Wine Types & Styles: I recently tasted Torii Mor’s 1994 Olson Estate, Pinot Noir, and it was fantastic! After more than 12 years, it showed excellent fruit, good acids and fine tannins. Well balanced and offering a complex finish usually only found in Burgundy’s best wines. If Torii Mor should boast about something it should be their Pinot Noir. Pinot is their forté, followed closely by an astonishing Pinot Blanc.

Torii Mor make excellent classical style wines that show grape typicity. They produce a range of estate Pinot Noir wines, as well as, a Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, a semi-sweet Late Harvest Gewürztraminer and a popular Port wine. Oak Usage: French oak 96%, Hungarian oak 4%. 88% new oak, 6% - 1 year old & 6% - 2 year old oak.

Recommended Wines:

1) Torii Mor, Olson Estate Pinot Noir, 2006. (90 pts) A classical wine style. The nose

shows good grape typicity with excellent fruit displaying both dark and light cherries, violets, boysenberries followed by a spicy touch and a hint of French oak. The palate has fine, round tannins, good fruit and firm acidity. It is in balance with its alcohol. Long aftertaste. Storage potential (12-15 years).

2) Torii Mor, Hawks View Pinot Noir, 2006. (90 pts). Classic in style. Good grape typicity. The nose explodes with a mix of red cherries, cranberries, strawberries, pepper and a touch of French oak characters. The palate is well balanced with good fruit and fine tannins supported by good acidity levels. Long length. Storage potential (12-15 years).

3) Torii Mor, Olson Estate, Pinot Blanc, 2006 (89pts). Classical in style. Good aromatics with fruity, floral and tropical fruits characters. The palate shows good fruit supported by good acidity levels. Alcohol is balanced and well integrated. Lingering length. Storage potential (3-5 years).

Owner/s: Dr. Don & Margie Olson.

Winemaker/s: Jacques Tardy is a native of Nuits Saint Georges, Burgundy, France. Jacques grew up in a family that has been heavily involved in the French wine industry

for five generations, both in wine-making and vineyard management. Jacques was educated at the Lycée Agricole et Viticole of Beaune, earning a degree in 1974 in Viticulture and Enology. After he completed a year of mandatory military service, he returned home, leased vineyards and made his first wine under his own Jacques Tardy label in 1976.

After several years of making wine in France, Jacques moved to California in 1982 to work at the J. Lohr Winery in San Jose, California. Jacques started first in the cellar and was soon promoted to Cellar Master, a position he held for more than five years.

With the desire to make quality Pinot Noir, Jacques and his family moved to Oregon in 1990 to explore job opportunities. Jacques started as co-winemaker at Montinore Vineyards, in Forest Grove, Oregon, and was promoted to winemaker in 1992. In 1998 Jacques added to his wine-making duties the management of the 240 acre

***Pictures Right:** Torii Mor's Jory soils are more than 3 meters (9+ feet) in depth. They are rich, red volcanic over sedimentary sandstone. This combination together with the volcanic basalt, clay, loam and silt deposits makes the soil extremely viable and unique for growing Pinot Noir.*



vineyard after the vineyard manager left the company, a position he held until fall 2004 when he took over as winemaker at Torii Mor winery in Dundee. The quality red and white wines that Jacques has produced since 1990 have earned several gold medals and other awards of distinction. While at Torii Mor, Jacques has crafted his signature “Deux Verres” Burgundian style wine, as well as furthered new world Oregon style “terroir” high quality wines.

O*ther items of Interest:* There’s a renewal taking place at Torii Mor these days. Their newly built winery will be LEED certified, they have joined the “carbon-neutral” train to a better healthier atmosphere, their sustainable and organic farming practices have become part of their name and philosophy “Gate to the Earth.” Not only are they focusing on protecting their unique “terroir” but they are also designing a number of educational programs to support their staff the public.

To mark this emergence and to honor his lost son Leif, who died in 1985, for his forward thinking ability, Don has established a new “Peace Bell” in the Japanese Gardens. In Japan, Peace Bells signify “Balance and Harmony,” as with Torii Mor’s revival.

General Information:

Torii Mor Vineyard & Winery
www.toriiomorwinery.com

Winery Address (Open to Public):
18325 NE Fairview Dr.
Dundee, OR 97115
(503) 554-0105

Tasting Room:

Tasting Fee: \$5.00
Hours: daily 11-5

Varieties/Wine Styles:

Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Port and Late Harvest Gewürztraminer.

Winery Features:

Tasting Room, Picnic Area, Wheelchair Accessible and Retail Sales.

Wine Club:

Yes. 10% discount and free tastings with membership.

Large Picture Right: A view of the Olson Vineyard at Torii Mor. **Inserted Picture:** Don and Margie Olson with Corky.



