

# ST. INNOCENT PINOT NOIR, ZENITH VINEYARD

100% Pinot Noir. A rich spicy, raspberry and dark cherry nose. The palate begins more gently with dark red fruits, sweeter spices, and some lovely red floral nuances that center on the mid-mouth. As the wine evolves, the sweeter fruit flavors dominate. There is a lovely textural richness that lingers, especially over your upper palate into its gently fading finish. Its lovely textures, supple tannins, juicy acidity, and a lovely length of concentrated fruit are a signature of this site. Try paired with lamb, pork or grilled salmon.

Zenith is the estate vineyard. It is centrally located in the Eola-Amity Hills AVA 8 miles NW of Salem, Oregon. Grapes for this wine come from 9 blocks. Most of the blocks face SE, allowing the fruit to heat up early in the morning. One faces SW and is warmer in the afternoon. All the blocks lie on old sedimentary soil at an elevation of 300'. The de-stemmed grapes were fermented in small stainless and Burgundy oak fermenters with no SO<sub>2</sub>, allowing the fermentations to proceed naturally. After gentle pressing and settling, the wine is aged in French oak barrels, 29% of which were new, for 16 months before bottling by gravity and without fining.

St. Innocent began as an idea conceived in a moment of passion and inspiration in 1983. Mark Vlossak spent the next five years studying, taking classes, and apprenticing with Oregon wine pioneer, Fred Arterberry. In 1988, St. Innocent Winery was founded with a goal to produce wines that respect the quality and tradition of the Old World in one of the newest and most exciting wine growing regions on the planet: Oregon's Willamette Valley. Mark

Vlossak is founder, president and winemaker of St. Innocent Winery in Salem, Oregon. He oversees the vineyards and represents St. Innocent in the national marketplace. Mark's exposure to wine began at the age of seven when he began tasting wines daily with his father, a wine importer. During his university training, he developed a love for Champagne. After reading an article in 1983 on American sparkling wine in Bon Appetit magazine, he was inspired to become a winemaker. St. Innocent has grown from 600 cases in their first year to their current production of 10,000 cases, yet each wine is still handcrafted.



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## *Tasting Note:*

### ST. INNOCENT PINOT NOIR, ZENITH VINEYARD

100% Pinot Noir. Rich, spicy aromas of raspberry & dark cherry; flavors of sweet dark red fruits, sweet spices & red flowers; lingering richness on the long finish.

## *Shelf Talker:*

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