ST. INNOCENT

‘Five Great Oregon Vineyards Worth Knowing’

– Wine Enthusiast (Temperance Hill, Shea, Freedom Hill)

‘Vlossak's dedication to quality and his commitment to delivering value to his customers is exemplary.’ -Robert Parker

‘Oregon winemaker Mark Vlossak is justifiably acclaimed for his impressive single-vineyard Pinot Noirs, and his touch with Chardonnay is no less fine.’ -Food and Wine 2022

Year Founded: **1988**

Region: **Willamette Valley, OR**

Winemaker/Owner: **Mark Vlossak**

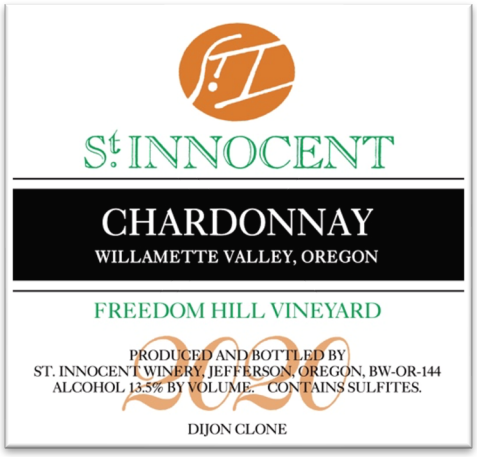
Fun Fact : **St. Innocent is famed for the monthly lunches and dinners prepared by Mark himself for wine club members.**

-Certified Sustainable, Certified Organic-

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. Our goal is 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.

The winery was built to help us make wine more naturally, using minimal technology. We fill the fermenters and bottle by gravity flow. Our barrels rest in an underground room with naturally controlled temperature and humidity. Mark believes that simplicity in this process allows the wine's personality to be fully expressed. The barrels are never moved during their aging, nor is any machinery allowed in the barrel cellar; all work is done by hand.

"The winery is named after my father, who introduced me to wine at the age of seven. Unusually, I loved it! I quickly developed a very good palate and we had a nightly wine lesson with dinner. As a hobby, he was one of the early members of the Society of Wine Educators. He was in the first group to pass the SWE certificate exam, and was the first American to earn a Lifetime Achievement Award. He had an importers license for 20 years, working for a Wisconsin wine importer / distributor, and frequently traveled to wine regions around the world. Everyone knew him as 'John I. Vlossak', as he was not fond of his middle name- 'Innocent'. I wanted to honor his influence on my palate- the one thing that cannot be taught. 'John's Winery' would have sounded too boring, and 'Vlossak Winery' sounds too much like a certain pickle company, so I ultimately settled on 'St. Innocent', and the rest is history."

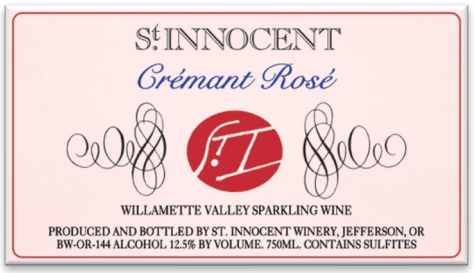


2022 Chardonnay, Freedom Hill Vd

An old-world style of Chardonnay. Our site has strong similarities to Chablis, and the wine has an Oregon take on minerality, acidity, and lovely yellow fruits. The grapes were whole-cluster pressed. After settling, the juice was barrel-fermented with indigenous yeasts. The wine completed malolactic fermentation naturally and was aged on the lees for eleven months entirely in French oak barrels. **Certified Sustainable!**

94 Points – International Wine Report – *"Aromas of white nectarine, crushed chalk, and lime blossom mingle with subtle hints of hazelnut, offering a layered and breezy introduction. On the palate, the wine flows with clarity, bringing together ripe pear, lemon zest, and a faint trace of wet riverstone that adds dimension and energy. Its medium-bodied frame is carried by lively acidity, which stretches the flavors into a clean, persistent finish."*

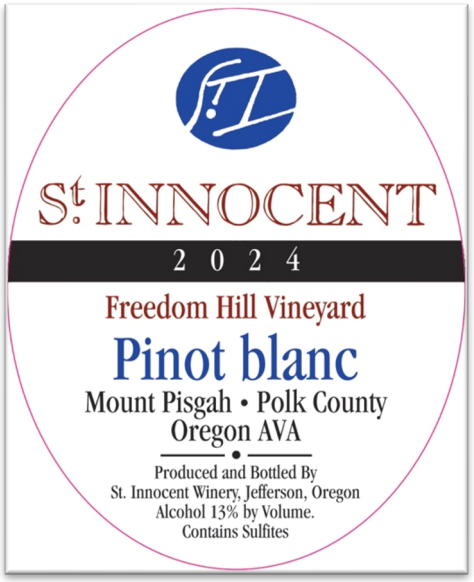
93 Points – James Suckling



2020 Crémant Rosé Freedom Hill Vd

Grapes for sparkling wine are picked earlier, at higher acidity and lower ripeness, creating an ideal framework for the bubbles. The juice is fermented to dryness in stainless steel and rests on the lees for 8 months. In June 2021 it was put on tirage, allowing the wine to ferment a second time entrapping the CO2, and creating the "sparkle." It was then aged for 39 months to allow the flavors to slowly develop. We riddle and disgorge each bottle by hand.

93 Points - Owen Bargreen - *"Very pure and pretty in terms of bright red fruits with strawberry and pomegranate seed alongside shades of salty minerals. Showing a soft mousse, this is brilliant stuff that will also age gracefully."*



2023/2024 Pinot Blanc Freedom Hill Vd

Produced in a style to accentuate texture and ripe fruit flavors. The must was fermented 24% in an Acacia cask and 76% in tank and aged for eight months on the lees.

"The aromas always remind me of going to a fruit stand in the fall and smelling all the varieties of apples and pears. On the palate there is a touch of salinity, perfect for shellfish, that comes from the very old uplifted marine seabed that the vines grow in. The richness on the palate extends nicely into a finish of dried apples and Meyer lemon." -Winemaker notes

2021 Pinot Noir Temperance Hill Vd

The de-stemmed grapes were fermented in 4-8 ton stainless steel and Burgundy oak fermenters with no SO2, allowing the fermentation to proceed naturally. After gentle pressing and settling, the wine aged in French oak barrels, 22% of which were new, for 16 months before bottling by gravity without fining. **Certified Organic!**

94 Points – International Wine Report - *"Aromas of macerated strawberries, wet earth, dried flowers, and shades of dark chocolate. More blue-fruited on the palate with gobs of sweet spice and earthiness that hit the back palate on the finish."*

2021 Pinot Noir Freedom Hill Vd

Our biggest and boldest Pinot Noir, great with steak. The de-stemmed grapes were fermented in 4-8 ton stainless steel fermenters with no SO2, allowing the fermentations to proceed naturally. After gentle pressing and settling, the wine aged in French oak barrels, 15% of which were new, for 16 months before bottling by gravity without fining. **Certified Sustainable!**

94 Points – Vinous - "*Like cracking open an ashen stone to find a bevy of autumnal spices, incense, dried citrus peels and sage. This is silky and enveloping, nearly weighty in feel, matched by depths of ripe red and blue fruits that swirl across a stream of tantalizing acidity.*"

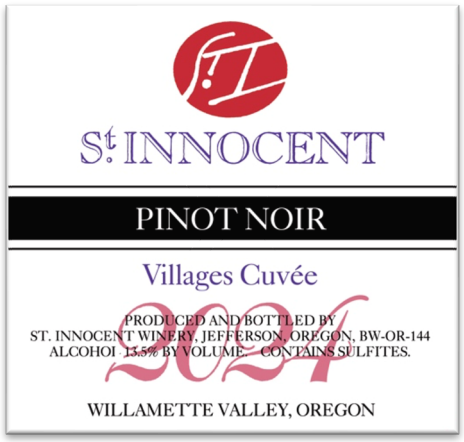
93 Points – Wine Enthusiast

2021 Pinot Noir Shea Vd

'Prepare yourself. This wine is absolutely out of this world. It defines the best of this wine region (sub-AVAs included). I feel like this is what winemakers saw in the '60s when they were planting this grape even though others said don't even try. It's soft depth of fruit will make you swoon. The fleshiness will coat your palate as the slight tannic grip releases. It's a tough one to write about, you just need to try it.'
-Vinepair 2023

Our most complex and age worthy Pinot Noir from one of Oregon's greatest vineyards. The de-stemmed grapes were fermented in 4-8 ton stainless steel and Burgundy oak fermenters with no SO2, allowing the fermentations to process naturally. After gentle pressing and settling, the wine aged in French oak barrels, 22% of which were new, for 16 months before bottling by gravity and without fining. **Certified Sustainable!**

95 Points – Decanter



2024 Villages Cuvee Pinot Noir

An imminently drinkable blend of Pinot Noir from the vineyards of Temperance Hill, Momtazi, Shea, Enchanted Way and Freedom Hill. The de-stemmed grapes were fermented in small stainless and Burgundy oak fermenter with no SO2, allowing fermentation to proceed naturally. After gentle pressing and settling, the wine aged in French oak barrels, 8% of which were new, for 12 months before bottling by gravity without fining.

92 Points – '23 James Suckling – "*A powerful, fruity, juicy wine that goes deep into black cherries and cinnamon on a medium body. This offers a polished feel, with concentrated black fruits and sophisticated oak spices, supported by light tannins and racy acidity.*"