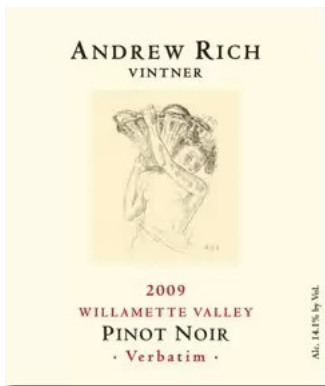


ANDREW RICH

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Andrew Rich



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United States of America

Willamette Valley

OVERVIEW

Named one of Wine & Spirits magazine's top 100 wineries of 2009, Andrew Rich Wines has been crafting distinctive wines in Oregon's Willamette Valley since 1995. Along with Pinot Noir, Rhône Valley varietals from the Columbia Valley—including Syrah, Roussanne, Grenache, and Mourvèdre—take pride of place, though the winery is equally well known for its seductive Gewürztraminer dessert wine and a rich and powerful Cab Franc.

Although Andrew Rich says his first love is Syrah, particularly from the northern Rhône, he went overseas to receive his oenology and viticulture training in Burgundy. After receiving his degree in France, Rich wrote to Randall Grahm seeking employment at Bonny Doon, then the biggest producer of Rhône wines in the U.S. He started in the cellar earning a meager wage, and soon afterward faced a rather unexpected challenge. "They said, 'oh, you're going to distill,'" he recalls. "I mean this is typical Randall Grahm. I said, 'I don't know anything about distilling,' but I didn't really know anything about working in the cellar either, so I guess it didn't make any difference."

In 1994 he moved to Oregon, and worked that fall at Ponzi in Beaverton before launching his own label in 1995.

Andrew Rich produces wine in the state-of-the-art Carlton Winemakers Studio, the nation's first "green" cooperative winemaking facility. The facility is home to several respected Oregon wine producers.

Varieties: Pinot Noir, Roussanne, Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Gewürztraminer.

Average Production: 5,000 cs

WINES

Pinot Noir Prelude, Willamette Valley

Andrew's entry level Pinot Noir, still made in small quantities, with excellent balance, and a delicious suppleness.

Pinot Noir Verbatim, Willamette Valley

The nose shows a hint of caramel, dark red fruits, and a little of that mysterious beetroot thing sometimes found in cool-climate Pinot. The mid-palate is round and full but not at all heavy, enlivened by well-integrated acidity. Soft tannins, excellent balance, and a delicious suppleness allow this wine to be enjoyed now and over the next few years. 2009: 90 Points Wine Spectator

Pinot Noir The Knife Edge, Willamette Valley

Succulent, full, and harmonious in the mouth, there is a sense of transparency and restraint, density without fat, the texture silky yet shot through with vibrant acidity. The finish is very long. This wine's acidity continues to integrate and should allow it to age for seven to ten years. 2008: 90 pts. Wine Spectator; 92 pts Tanzer

Coup d'Etat, Columbia Valley

In 2008, the sixth vintage of this Chateauneuf-du-Pape-type blend, 60% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre, and 15% Syrah are once again comrades in arms, fighting the good fight against Chard-Cab hegemony. This has to be tasted to be believed!

Gewürztraminer Dessert Wine, Washington/Oregon

An ice wine "wannabe" with aromas and flavors that are strictly tropical: pineapple, guava, passion fruit, with some peach nectar for good measure. Stunning dessert wine! 760 cases produced. 2008: 91 pts. Wine Spectator

"While I can't say that this is a word for word—grape for grape?—rendering of the vintage, that is more or less the idea behind the name. While the Prelude is pretty and open-knit and easy going, and The Knife Edge is the most structured with the greatest mid-palate depth, Verbatim is, I think, the blend that best captures the vintage, the place, and my wine-making sensibility. In a sense, it is the 'literal' expression of Willamette Valley Pinot Noir in a given vintage. You can quote me." - Andrew Rich