

KRISTIAN FERRY AT
ABELLONE VINEYARD

New Wine on the Block

Pinot noir grapes abound at Abbelone Vineyard

STORY BY RACHAEL CARNES • PHOTOS BY TRASK BEDORTHA

“Our property used to be Christensen Brothers Ranch, a working rodeo stock ranch for horses,” says Abbelone Vineyard co-owner Angela Ferry. In the routine operations of running the winery, “we find lots of remnants from those days, like horse bits and fencing,” she says.

Ferry, a financial recruiter, and her husband, Kristian Ferry, a surgical oncologist, bought their 34-acre property in 2002.

“We planted our first vines that spring,” Ferry says. Now, 6 acres of the Abbelone site is planted with vines of pinot noir.

Abbelone Vineyard takes its name from Kristian Ferry’s mother: “It’s a Danish name, and she passed away the year that they bought the land,” explains general manager Heather Jackson. “She was such an inspiring woman that they named their vineyard after her.”

Nestled on the backside of Spencer Butte (across from the Cascade Raptor Center), Abbelone sits “in a bit of a

valley,” Ferry says, “and we think this is why our site is unusually hot.”

When it comes to pinot, a little heat is a good thing. Though considered around the world to be among the finest wines, pinot grapes are also some of the trickiest fruit to grow, as their densely compact clusters make the grapes particularly vulnerable to several kinds of rot.

A couple of years ago, for example, many wineries in Yamhill County, renown for its pinot, lost a great percentage of their yields to persistently cold and rainy



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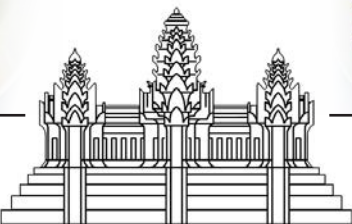
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