



WHAT STANDS OUT:

2021 Wines

I have said to folks many, many times at this point, "When we start showing and talking about these wines everyone is going to think we are a pack of liars." Well, that point in time is now. Anyone living on the west coast can testify how crazy the summer of 2021 was at a couple of different points last year. Heat Dome sounds more like a Roland Emmerich film than an actual weather event that occurred up and down the western part of North America in June. The high temperature recorded in Newberg during that stretch is now higher than the highest temperature *ever* recorded in Las Vegas, NV! Unofficially the temps reached 119 F here at the winery. If you have never been in 119 degree weather I can tell you that it's the difference between feeling like it is really, crazy hot out and feeling like if you don't get inside right away there is a chance you might perish.

Yet, somehow the wines from this vintage display none of the characteristics one would expect from a hotter (well, the hottest ever) vintage. These are wines of low to moderate alcohols, excellent levels of acidity, very nice tannin structures and terrific overall balance, all while having a level of intensity that seems exceptional, but not out of character. Our neighbor, Mike Etzel, described this vintage as a collection of the greatest wines he has ever worked with. It is still early in the process,

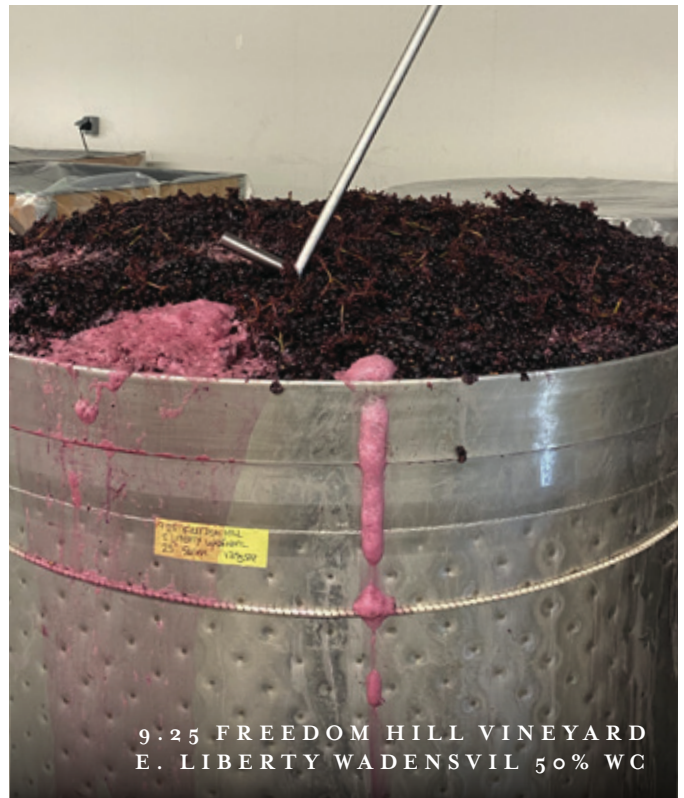
but in a winery that has such a large concentration of historic old vine sites it is hard not to lean into the sentiments of our wizardly old friend with whom we share a hillside. If you have tasted any of the newly released spring white and pink wines, you know they have exceptional freshness to them.

Fermentations were extraordinarily active, volcanic even, with nearly each fermenter having large amounts of frothy, pink foam at the height of their activity. This is a very good sign. Every year some small percentage of fermenters will have this sort of rollicking action going on, but the only other vintage I can recall seeing this across the breadth of fermenters was 1999. Many who read this may not know the history of Oregon vintages well enough to know what that means around these parts. 1999 was a late vintage where an epic October allowed for picking into November. The wines from the 1999 vintage were, by many in the business, considered to be the strongest batch from the decade and on any Oregon wine historian's list of great vintages it is going to be listed somewhere. That would be, at worst, the starting point for the potential quality of the 2021 vintage wines.

In any case, we are going with telling the truth, our truth about these wines. Believe and expose yourselves to the largest collection of vineyard designated Pinot Noirs in America!



FROTHY FERMENTER



9.25 FREEDOM HILL VINEYARD
E. LIBERTY WADENSVIL 50% WC