



Swick Wines 'Bring It!' 2021

Who: Joe Swick

Producer Summary: Many American producers talk about making their wines affordable, Oregon native Joe Swick actually achieves it. What's more, his wines are captivating to nerds and noobs alike! Joe's story began in the wine section of an organic foods market and took him on a journey across the globe with formative experiences working for pivotal producers like Dirk Nieport in Portugal. Joe's winery is located not far from Portland and he purchases fruit from both Washington and Oregon.



Where: Mixed appellations in Washington

Varietals & Vineyards:

20% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre and 5% Grenache from Conley Vineyard in Yakima Valley AVA Washington. 2000 ft. elevation, windy

60% Pinot Noir is from Finnigan Hill Vineyards in the Chehalem Mountains. 40 acres planted in 2009, 1000 ft elevation, loess soils

5% Tourgia Nacional from Wildridge Vineyard, Naches Heights Washington, 2000 ft elevation, loess soils, certified biodynamic.

5% Gewurztraminer - Lacewing Vineyard, Columbia Gorge AVA planted in 1968, practicing organic. 55 years old. Basalt soils. 1600 feet elevation. South facing

Farming Practices: Organic

Vintage Notes: "In 2021, we were rewarded with an A+ vintage in all of the AVAs we work with," Joe writes, "The perfect weather allowed us to pick exactly when we wanted to."

Vinification: Each variety was separately whole cluster fermented on the skins with 30 days of maceration before pressing into neutral 228L barriques and 500-600L puncheons for aging on gross lees until the spring. The blend of mostly free run wines was made shortly before bottling.

Production: 1,000 cases

Tasting Notes: amazingly complex Pinot Noir with Syrah contributing smoke and leather, Touriga brings the dark cherry, and Gewürztraminer adds a floral aromatic embellishment.





Fun Fact: ‘Bring It!’ is the workhorse cuvee of Swick Wines. It is blended together from many different barrels of different varieties, usually fermented in the same manner but the exact details reflect the vintage rather than being prescriptive.

Further Reading:

“There are basically no rules when we make the Bring It red wine,” Joe writes, “we work with the vintage.” Although the blend has developed over the years to favor Pinot Noir, the goal with this central wine is to reflect the season and produce the most ‘complete’ wine that year’s crop can offer. Inspired by his time working with Dirk Nieport in Portugal, Joe attributes much of the Swick Wines style to his blending.

“Overall, 2021 will go down as one of the best vintages,” Joe writes, “if not the best for us so far.” While previous vintages have had blends that more strongly favor varieties like Syrah and Cabernet, the 2021 blend reflects a bountiful and high quality vintage for Pinot Noir. “Many winemakers in Oregon see blending Pinot Noir as a major foul because Pinot Noir is supposed to be ‘all about terroir’” Joe notes, “I get it, but Pinot Noir can also be a great blending component as it adds earth, mushroom, forest floor and bright acid to red wine blends.”

