



QUICK FACTS

FOUNDED 1971

REGION Dundee Hills AVA, Willamette Valley, Oregon

WINE Produced from estate grown fruit
Nate Klostermann – *Head Winemaker at Argyle since 2013, consults with Knudsen family.*

SECOND GENERATION FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Page Knudsen Cowles (*Managing Partner*)
Cal Knudsen, Jr., Colin Knudsen, David Knudsen

VINEYARD

Pinot noir (75%), Chardonnay (23%), Pinot meunier (2%)

520 - 1,000 ft elevation

125-acres planted, from 1972 to 2014

Jory soil - *volcanic red clay*

Sustainability

LIVE Certified Sustainable

Salmon Safe Certified

Regenerative agricultural practices

Erica Miller, Vineyard Manager



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HISTORY

OVERVIEW

Knudsen Vineyards is a storied winegrowing property in the Willamette Valley **founded in 1971**. A family endeavor then and now, the 230-acre landholding in the heart of the **Dundee Hills AVA** has grown some of the **most sought-after grapes in the region for more than 50 years**. Led by the second generation since 2009, Knudsen Vineyards produces a terroir-driven line of Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines. In 2020, the Knudsen family opened The Outlook at Knudsen Vineyards, their first tasting room on the property, an opportunity to share this historic site with the public.

OUR STORY

In 1971, timber executive and Oregon wine pioneer C. Calvert “Cal” Knudsen realized a long-held dream of growing grapes and making wine when he and his wife Julia Lee purchased a 200-acre former walnut orchard in the heart of Oregon’s Dundee Hills. Cal had fallen in love with the world-renowned wines of Burgundy and Champagne, and he was convinced that Oregon’s north Willamette Valley—with its similar climate, topography, and sedimentary soils—could produce still and sparkling wines of great quality.

The Oregon wine industry was nascent at the time. When Knudsen Vineyards planted 30 acres of vines in 1972, it became the largest vineyard in the Willamette Valley. In 1976, Knudsen and pioneering Oregon winemaker Dick Erath formed Knudsen Erath Winery and built the first commercial winery in the Dundee Hills. For more than a decade thereafter, Knudsen Erath Winery produced Pinot noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, and sparkling wines.

With the dissolution of the Knudsen Erath partnership in 1987, Knudsen invested in Argyle Winery, then newly established to produce high-quality sparkling and still wines. The family continues to have a long-term grape supply and vineyard management relationship. Knudsen Vineyards is a prime supplier of fruit to Argyle, which itself has grown to become among the larger wineries in Oregon.

Cal and Julia Lee's four adult children now own Knudsen Vineyards—one of the smaller wineries in Oregon—and have invested significantly in re-planting and other enhancements to the operation of this historically significant vineyard.

With 130 planted acres, Knudsen Vineyard grows Pinot noir and Chardonnay with a mix of old vines and newer, high-density blocks planted with “Old World” Dijon clones.

The Knudsens feel a strong affinity with the land and care deeply about preserving and expanding the legacy provided by their pioneering parents.



THE VINEYARD

Knudsen Vineyard is located in the Dundee Hills AVA and spans an elevation range of 520 - 1,000 feet. The soil is Jory - red colored, iron-rich, silt clay loam formed from decomposed ancient basalt. Situated east of the Yamhill-Carlton AVA, it is protected from marine air and Pacific Ocean storms. Just south of the higher Chehalem Mountains, it is offered protection from Columbia River Gorge cold winter winds and hot summer breezes, meaning that the Dundee Hills are generally more moderate in temperature than other parts of the region.



From the beginning, Knudsen Vineyard has been farmed with a commitment to the long-term health of the land. The vineyard is certified sustainable by L.I.V.E and is managed using state-of-the-art viticultural techniques informed by over 48 years experience in this location. Due to this longevity, the vineyard reflects a variety of planting decisions over time. Row width variations, rootstock upgrades, clonal selections, row orientation, density of plantings, cover crop decisions, a range of elevations and drip irrigation available across the entire vineyard are just some of the attributes that differentiate this storied property.

Since 1980, Knudsen Vineyards have benefitted from the viticultural knowledge and experience of Allen Holstein, recently retired as Argyle Winery's Senior Vineyard Manager after 37 years. Erica Miller, Argyle's Head of Viticulture, manages the vineyard using modern technology to monitor water usage, crop load, and disease pressures, among other elements with an emphasis on vine sustainability. The family has instituted a multi-year, systematic replanting program to replace vines with disease-resistant rootstock and improved clonal material.

The Knudsen family has an ongoing partnership with Argyle who manages the vineyard and helps produce the wine.

KNUDSEN WINES

Knudsen Vineyard grows French Dijon clones, focusing on 667, 777, 115 and Pommard for Pinot noir, and 76 and 95 for Chardonnay. **Some Chardonnay clones at Knudsen Vineyard are the oldest Dijon plantings in the New World, dating to 1990.**

Pinot noir from Knudsen Vineyard is noted for gentle tannins and generous, silky textures; wines of uncommon elegance, yet with focus and intensity. Hallmarks of Knudsen Vineyards Chardonnay are bright fruit, balance and structure and fresh acidity. Knudsen Vineyards wines are aged in French oak.

