



2012 Russian River Valley
Winemaker's Block

Pinot Noir

VARIETAL CONTENT: 100% Pinot Noir

APPELLATION: Russian River Valley

ALCOHOL LEVEL: 14.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 0.06G/100ML

TITRATABLE ACIDITY: 0.56G/100ML

PH: 3.72

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REGIONAL NOTES

The Russian River Valley is one of California's most celebrated sources of world-class Pinot Noir. This cool-climate region is blessed with strong maritime influences, defined by the Pacific fog that flows through the river valley to blanket the vineyards each day. Warm days and cool nights encourage distinct varietal characteristics in the Pinot Noir grapes here. Since the 1960s, the Russian River Valley has been home to the pioneers of New World Pinot Noir.

VITICULTURE NOTES

The 2012 vintage brought a long and cool growing season to the Russian River Valley. We selected the fruit for this Pinot Noir from three esteemed blocks on our estate vineyards: Del Rio Ranch Block 4, Laguna Ranch Block 7 and Mac Murray Ranch Block 9. All three vineyard blocks are VSP trellised, hand-leafed and hand-harvested.

WINEMAKER NOTES

All of the lots for our 2012 Winemaker's Block Pinot Noir were handcrafted at our small-lot winery, Cellar No. 254. The grapes were cooled overnight before destemming into 7-ton open-top tanks. The must was initially saignéed to increase concentration and flavor intensity. The grapes were then cold soaked for up to five days before BRG or AMH yeast was added. During fermentation, the wines were punched down at least twice per day. The free-run juice was aged on its lees in French oak barrels, 40 percent of which was new oak, 30 percent second-use oak and 30 percent third-use oak. The wine was then racked and blended eight months later, remaining unfinned.

TASTE PROFILE

Our MacMurray Ranch 2012 Winemaker's Block Selection is an elegant expression of our finest vineyard blocks in the Russian River Valley. Silky and smooth, this Pinot Noir reflects a cooler vintage and a long growing season. Pinot Noir Clone 115 from our Del Rio Ranch Vineyard provided the backbone and structure for this wine. Pommard Clone 5 from MacMurray Ranch Block T09 and our Calera Clone from Laguna Ranch Block L07 gave this wine its alluring deep cherry characteristics.