

BALVERNE

CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE, RUSSIAN RIVER AND CHALK HILL WINES

2013

Russian River Valley

Reserve Pinot Noir

WINEMAKER

Margaret Davenport

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

ALCOHOL

14.5%

pH

3.73

RESIDUAL SUGAR

.5

BARREL AGING

8 months, 40% new oak

CASES PRODUCED

567

VINEYARD

This Reserve Pinot Noir is made from selected lots grown on three blocks at the western edges of the property. Grapes from these block's soils are fairly unique on this Estate, consisting primarily of Felta and Spreckles loam. Both are well drained, low water capacity soil series.

The 2013 season started at a breakneck pace, with vines flowering 2-3 weeks earlier than normal, with abundant sunshine and without frost or rain to diminish our crops. Warm and mild temperatures through bud break and bloom allowed for optimal fruit set, without threat of frost. A mild spring and summer followed, with few extended heat surges to sunburn the fruit, allowing the grape clusters to ripen at a strong and steady pace. The steady warm and sunny summer days allowed for increased growing degree day accumulation, causing the vines' to produce small and intense berries.

WINEMAKING

The Pinot Noir fruit was brought into the winery in the very early morning at 50 degrees. The fruit was cold soaked for two days and inoculated with Assmanhausen, a slow starting yeast. Once fermentation was underway, a regimen of punch downs of up to four times per day was followed. Our Pinot Noirs are generally pressed at about 2 g/L residual sugar, to release some unfermented sugars that can then ferment in barrel, adding more complexity to the fruit aromas.

The vineyard blocks were kept separate and selections were made for the Reserve wine based on robust character and intense color, allowing longer barrel aging with more new oak. Malolactic fermentation took place in barrel, with daily stirring. The wine was aged in a selection of Francois Freres and Sirugue barrels, 40% new, for eight months.

WINE

The nose exhibits classic Russian River red fruit character, with a slight floral note and hints of exotic spice and forest floor. The mid palate is well structured with beautiful flavors of red berry fruit. There is a silkiness to the texture, with excellent balance, a layering of flavors, fine grained tannins and a long, complex finish.