



## 2008 VINTAGE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

This was a year for low yields in the vineyards. During the last week of August, these low yields combined with a heat spike to give a little extra push to fast-ripening Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. By the beginning of September, harvest was in full swing. And in mid-September, most of the early-ripening varieties had been picked with ripe flavors and robust sugars. Low yields across the board contributed to intense flavors in both white and red grapes, leaving vintners pleased with overall results.

## CELLAR NOTES

Our Russian River Pinot Noir is made from grapes grown in two distinct vineyards, Bacigalupi and Dunah. The former is located in the warmer Middle Reach of the valley, while the latter is located in the coldest corner of the appellation the Sebastopol Hills. After hand sorting through every grape cluster, the grapes are destemmed and gently punched down in open-top stainless steel tanks during fermentation. As with our Chardonnay, we use a blend of native and non-native yeasts in different lots. After completion of the primary fermentation, we barrel down the free-run and press wine separately, all into French oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation occurs naturally. The wines then age for a year prior to bottling without filtration.

## TASTING NOTES

A blend of two fine Russian River vineyards, this elegantly styled Pinot Noir offers mounds of classic cherry notes up front. They are followed by more subtle hints of plum, toast and a touch of sage. A judicious use of oak blends well with the modest, refined tannins and acidity that give excellent structure.

Oak Treatment: 100 Percent French Oak

Cases Produced: 565

Appellation: Sonoma County, Russian River Valley

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