

2015 Pinot Noir Russian River "Live Free or Die"

Bottling and harvest are the two most intense endeavors undertaken each year. Typically there is some time in between to change gears—not the case for 2015 as our Pinot Noir was close to ready as the last bottle rolled off the bottling line. Looking back at the growing season the usual buzz words apply when prefaced by "early". Early bud break, early veraison and early harvest. Perhaps the cultural year was affected most by a warm winter followed by a cool spring limiting the crops yield to levels below average. A light crop typically results in a quality vintage for us and 2015 was no different! We are very happy.

About this wine: "LIVE FREE OR DIE" is a phrase best known as the New Hampshire state motto and first uttered by New Hampshire Revolutionary War hero General John Stark who wrote, "Live free or die, death is not the greatest of evils." This commemorative wine was created by vintner, philanthropist and University of New Hampshire alum Peter Paul to mark the inaugural ribbon cutting for the University of New Hampshire's new Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. Sourcing grapes from a select number of fine Russian River Valley vineyards, Peter has said, "I wanted to make a wine that would resonate with the spirit of New Hampshire and also celebrate the creation of the new school." The wine was aged in French oak for 11 months and offers a fine-tuned expression of the rugged coastal vineyards that produce some of California's most elegant, sought-after Pinot Noir.

Tasting Notes: Bursting with ripe cherry and raspberry notes, the wine serves up a lovely blend of fruit flavors that sit with surprising concentration on the palate yet finish with a refreshingly juicy edge. Remarkably easy-drinking in its youth, this wine doesn't hold back on flavor or character. 2015 might be our best "LFOD" yet.

Technical Data:

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir Oak: 100% French Oak Cases Produced: 264

Appellation: Russian River Valley