

DONUM

— THE GIFT OF THE LAND —

The Donum Estate is both a place and a unique project. In fact, it's three places. Donum Ranch is a 200-acre property with 70 acres devoted to vines located on gently rolling hills that rise up from San Pablo Bay in Carneros. Less than a mile away is the venerable 20-acre Ferguson Block. And the 11 acres of Nugent Vineyard lie to the north in the Russian River Valley. A variety of Pinot Noir clones and selections are grown on our sites in particular our desirable 'Donum' selection, plus 'heirlooms' like Calera, Chalone, Hanzell, Martini and Swan, and Dijon clones such as 115, 667, 777. Wente, our coveted Chardonnay selection, is planted on both our Donum and Ferguson sites.

Anne Moller Racke farms all three vineyards, which provide superlative estate grown fruit for our "ultimate Pinot Noir project". Based on a Burgundian grand cru model, this program's goal is to produce the finest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay possible.



Carneros Selections

2009 WEST SLOPE PINOT NOIR

West Slope comes from the middle portion of our west-sloping 4-90 vineyard block, a 5.5-acre site at the Donum Ranch. The Donum selection there has always been the mainstay of our Donum Carneros Pinot Noir. In most vintages that we have produced, the wine seemed more complex when blended with a small portion of the old Martini selection. But in 2002 and 2003, we felt that the 4-90 wine was already complete, and that the old Martini component would be like adding a dollop of whipped cream that sat on top rather than marrying. In 2007, 2008 and again in 2009, we heard the site singing solos again, not duets. And so from each vintage, we made a barrel selection from that single block into a superb stand-alone wine – West Slope.



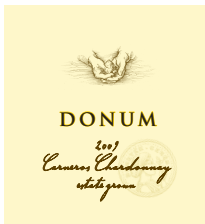
2008 THOMAS PINOT NOIR

Named for Thomas Ferguson, the owner of Ferguson Block, a 1974 planting of Martini selection Pinot Noir. This represents a stand out block and celebrates Mr. Ferguson's 100th birthday. A wine with a special story representing a stylistic bridge between Old and New Worlds. The beautifully ripe fruit is not weighted down, and the wine is both playful and sophisticated.



2008 ESTATE GROWN PINOT NOIR

The Donum Ranch covers the slopes of three hills in the Carneros region just north of San Pablo Bay. Nestled amid these hills is a 70-acre vineyard, a diverse collection of Dijon clones and heirloom selections of Pinot Noir, including our own Donum selection. Our Carneros Estate Grown Pinot Noir not only comes from the best blocks in our vineyard – our grand cru sites – but also is a selection of the most appealing barrels within each lot.



2009 ESTATE GROWN CHARDONNAY

Carneros is renowned for stellar Chardonnay, and this vineyard is a gem. The selection of 100% Old Wente Chardonnay came to us as budwood from the Winery Lake and Larry Hyde vineyards. It's a charming field selection, yielding a host of aromas and flavors from classic apple to banana to floral, including the occasional heady perfume of a musque cluster.



Russian River Valley Selection

2008 ESTATE GROWN PINOT NOIR

Anne Moller-Racke, winegrower and president, planned and planted our Russian River vineyard in the mid-1990s and has farmed the property ever since. The northern and southern extremes of the 11-acre vineyard have lighter soils with less water-carrying capacity, and so produce lower vigor vines, less dense canopies, shoots of ideal length and smaller crop loads than the rest of the property. The northern block is planted to the Dijon 667 Pinot Noir clone, which produces complex, earthy, dark fruit with substantial backbone, but not as tannic as the Dijon 777 clone. The southern block is all Dijon 115 – a pretty fruit forward clone with thin skin, as sensitive to heat as Martini or Calera, and thus always picked a lower sugar levels. This wine is always a 'best barrel' selection from these less vigorous blocks. Because these blocks consistently showed something special in our blind tastings, we made the first stand-alone bottling of this wine from the 2005 vintage.