

THE DONUM ESTATE

SPRING 2011 / NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 ISSUE 1



SPRING 2011

Anne Moller-Racke - President & Winegrower

Spring is here in Sonoma. The acacias are blooming and the hills have turned green. Yellow has become one of my favorite colors; the yellow mustard fields and acacias are so intoxicating. In the vineyard, we are putting the last touches on pruning and tying, and we're awaiting bud break.

In the cellar, Kenneth and I are taking a last look at our blends of the 2009 wines as bottling is happening shortly. When I talk about a blend, I really mean a barrel selection. It is fascinating how distinctively different the same wine can be in different barrels, or even more dramatically, in barrels from different coopers. The cooper as well as the forest selection (tighter-grained versus more open-grained oak) or toast level can accentuate a wine, bring out the perfume, build length or finish or tighten up the wine. This is the craft, the art of winemaking, having a vision for the wine and choosing the right cooper to showcase the wine, creating layers and that perfect combination.

We have some surprises for you in this 2009 vintage. I won't give them all away, but I do want to pique your interest. We will introduce the counterpart to West Slope, called East Slope. I know – we are geniuses! Well, no, but the wine is so beautiful. As its name implies, it comes from the eastern slope of our vineyard. That block is planted to Calera, one of the highly respected selections. Similar to the "old Wente" Chardonnay selection, Calera sets loose clusters and small berries (we call it the "chick and hen" phenomenon), but the result is intense, richly flavored wines, soft, long tannins, beautiful perfume, and more red fruit than black fruit as on our West Slope. Calera makes a very complete wine and expresses the site beautifully. I am in love.

We will have our pre-release party again in the late summer, so please stay tuned. I can't wait to taste the 2009s with you. These wines are some of the best we have made in my book, but you will have to be the judge.

Cheers,
Anne



NEW RELEASES

2008 Donum Carneros Estate Grown Pinot Noir

This rich, concentrated Pinot Noir displays layers of blackberry, Bing and black cherry aromas along with subtle suggestions of strawberries, rose petals and baking spice in a very provocative nose. On the mouth, the wine is dense and silky, weighty and lithe, with lively black cherry and berry flavors so vibrant as to suggest fresh juice and flesh that linger through a prolonged finish. [More](#)

2008 Donum Carneros Thomas Pinot Noir

Thomas is named after Thomas Ferguson the owner of Ferguson Vineyard, a 1974 planting of Martini clone Pinot Noir. I have worked with this vineyard for twenty eight years and the Thomas block has always stood out. Every year in our blind tastings, it has been the best from this vineyard, and it made me believe in terroir.

In 2008, Mr. Ferguson celebrated his 100th birthday. We have been wanting to bottle wine from this block as a stand-alone, and this occasion presented the perfect opportunity. This wine not only has a special story, but to me it also represents a stylistic bridge between the Old and New Worlds. The Martini selection brings perfume and elegance, but layering and complexity as well – true Pinot Noir. The beautifully ripe fruit is not weighted down, and the wine is both playful and sophisticated. I hope this will bring you as much pleasure as it has brought us. It is a true expression of the site. Cheers to Thomas Ferguson! [More](#)

2008 Donum Carneros Estate Grown Chardonnay

This wine displays a wealth of aromas of spiced apple, perfectly ripe peaches and Meyer lemons with delightful hints of hazelnut. Both rich and subtle, the wine shows weighty yet nimble textures, succulent melon and pear fruit interwoven with delicate apricot flesh and stone on a very long, lingering finish. [More](#)



Family Winemakers Pasadena, CA

Pasadena Convention Center
March 15th, 2011 : 2pm - 6pm
Meet Anne Moller-Racke, winegrower and president, who will pour our most current selections. [More Information](#)

Pigs & Pinot Healdsburg, CA

Dry Creek Kitchen - Hotel Healdsburg
March 18 - 19, 2011
60 highly-acclaimed Pinot Noir wines, including 2007 Donum Carneros Pinot Noir, will be sampled during the Pinot Cup competition. [More Information](#)

2011 PMA Chairman's Gala Toronto, Canada

The Toronto Hunt
April 12, 2011
Join Anne Moller Racke as she shares her experience of crafting superlative Pinot Noir wines. [Club Information](#)

Pebble Beach Food & Wine Pebble Beach, CA

Two-Day Grand Tasting
April 30 - May 1, 2011
[More Information](#)

Pinot Days San Francisco, CA

June 18, 2011
[More Information](#)

REVIEWS

Wine Spectator

Highest Rating for
2008 Pinot Noir
96 points
2008 Donum Carneros
West Slope Pinot Noir

This harmonious red is bursting with wonderfully pure fruit flavors of raspberry, cherry and strawberry. Ripe and full-bodied... [More Information](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

Top-100 in 2010
2007 Carneros Estate Grown
Pinot Noir

If there's one to cellar this is it: It's sultry, oak-driven and packed with musk, mushroom and roasted spices... [More Information](#)

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From the Donum Estate winegrowers and winemakers