

# DONUM

## *The Gift of the Land*

At The Donum Estate we are dedicated to the pursuit of the ultimate Pinot Noir. With traditional Burgundian winemaking techniques, sensitive farming practices and unwavering passion for this varietal, we strive for an intricate balance between elegance and intensity in our wine. It is an expression of the exceptional terroir of our estate — the gift of the land.

### FRUIT

100% Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

### HARVEST DATE

September 13th and 19th, 2006

### AGING

11 months in Burgundian cooperage

### FERMENTATION DETAILS

95% destemmed. After destemming, grapes were cold soaked five days. Fermentation was native and achieved a temperature of 94°F. Went to barrel "dirty" and aged on the lees into the spring of 2007. 75% new French oak.

### WEATHER ATTRIBUTES

At the start of 2006, we experienced flooding with rainfall above normal continuing into the spring. This translated into vigorous shoot growth which had us pay more attention to canopy work during the season to ensure airflow. Flowering was delayed due to a cool and wet spring causing above normal cluster size. The surprise was the number of berries per cluster, which was 30% above normal, resulting in a larger crop. July gave us a week of brutally hot weather, which had no impact on the fruit because of the early stage of development, but the canopies were compromised which slowed ripening at the end of the season. August and September temperatures were below average, slowing ripening as well.

The interval from veraison to harvest was a lot longer, moving harvest into late September and even mid October, which is very unusual. We were quite aggressive during our green thinning with the goal of opening up the fruit zone and allowing better air circulation. Our job as vintners and growers is to bring out the best of that particular vintage. The challenging years are the ones we remember and 2006 was certainly one of those.

## 2006 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

This intense Pinot is filled with aromas of bright Bing and deep black cherries with nuances of sweet plum, blueberries, earth and mineral. Its texture is dominated by a structure of sweet yet cinching tannin holding on to juicy raspberries, fresh blackberries and ultra ripe strawberries.

97 POINTS *Vinfolio*, August 2008

