

DONUM

The Gift of the Land

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 diverse collection of Dijon clones and Heirloom selections of Pinot Noir, including our own Donum Roederer selection. Our Carneros Estate Grown Pinot Noir not only comes from the best clones and blocks in our vineyards – our grand cru sites -- but also is a selection of the most appealing barrels within each lot.

FRUIT: Dijon clone 667, Calera, Martini from our Ferguson Ranch and Donum Roederer selections from blocks 1-90, 2-90, 3-90 and 4-90

HARVEST DATE: October 2-5, 2007

BOTTLING DATE: August 16, 2008

CASES PRODUCED: 600

BARREL AGING: 11 months

OAK: 100% French, 70% new. Coopers include François Frères, Billon and Ermitage

ALCOHOL: 14.4%

PH: 3.69

TA: 0.60g/100ml

FERMENTATION DETAILS

The grapes were hand-harvested and sorted in the vineyard and at the winery. The lot was totally destemmed; 20% was crushed and 80% remained whole berry. During fermentation, the wine was pumped over the cap before 20° Brix, then the cap was punched down four times daily until 5° Brix. Fermentation was ended with pump-overs to allow the yeast to “breathe.” We allowed the fermentation to reach a maximum temperature of 90°F. in the juice, 94°F. in the cap and we held the temperature at 80°F. post-maceration to increase the extraction rate. The wine was sent to barrel on its lees, and was a best barrel selection of free run juice lots only. It was bottled without fining or filtration.

WEATHER ATTRIBUTES

It is a pleasure to write about the 2007 vintage. Few years seem so perfect or give us such great results. 2007 was one of those benchmark years that show the true potential of each block. Our best blocks did not improve as much as the lesser blocks, because year-in and year-out they deliver the best fruit without much intervention, which is the sign of a truly great site. Our lesser blocks shone as climate, crop load and ripening all fell into place, giving us overall stellar quality.

2007 was a drier than normal year, with good winter chill and a nice even bud break in late February. The rains stopped early, but our soils reached the almost full point, which got us off to a good start. A fairly cool April slowed growth, making good use of the soil moisture. May was more temperamental. Hot early days pushed bloom into gear, then it was cool, then hot again, causing shatter and giving us loose clusters and small berries. These are good quality indicators because a loose cluster stays free of rot and small berries give us a larger skin to juice ratio, resulting in more intense wines as pigments, tannins and flavors are in the skins.

The summer continued smoothly, cool to moderate with only one heat spike in July. The next big event happened around late August and early September when temperatures climbed into the 90s. Depending on the sugar level of the fruit, this can mean the start of harvest. That is our California dilemma! Most of our blocks were around 21° Brix, giving us the chance to let the heat pass. The following weeks were ideal, rewarding us with beautiful ripening weather. We picked over a period of nearly six weeks, concentrating on each block as it reached perfect ripeness. This was a long harvest period as all of our fruit comes from our estate vineyards in Carneros or the Russian River Valley appellation. In 2007, picking occurred around clones, not sites, starting with the Dijons, followed by Martini, Swan and Hanzell and finishing with our Donum Roederer and Calera selections.

2007 was light in quantity, but it gave us wines that are fully ripe and nicely balanced with good acidity, structure and sound pHs. These wines should age beautifully, but they are pleasing young with such nice fruit expression. We are very proud of these wines. Enjoy!

2007 ESTATE GROWN CARNEROS PINOT NOIR

This complex wine offers layers of aromas, including intense black cherry, cola, blackberry, ripe strawberry and a touch of sweet black tea. Its polished textures glide onto the palate, offering abundant blueberry, strawberry and ripe black plum flavors throughout a wonderfully persistent and deftly balanced finish.

-Kenneth Juhasz, winemaker

