

DONUM

The Gift of the Land

The 2012 vintage marks the fourth release of our Russian River Valley Reserve Pinot Noir. Our source is a 16-acre vineyard located in the heart of the Russian River Valley that was planned and planted by Anne Moller-Racke in the mid-1990's. For the first time in 2012, our Pommard block yielded fruit strong enough to make the Reserve bottling, making the 2012 the first Russian River Reserve to feature a blend of clones. The original building block of the Russian River Reserve, Dijon 667 continues to make up the majority of the blend. As always the Russian Reserve Pinot Noir may well be the richest, most full-bodied Pinot Noir in our lineup.

FRUIT: 43% Pommard and 57% Dijon 667 from the Winside Vineyard **NEW OAK:** 70% new French oak (Remond, Cadus, Francois Frères)

HARVEST DATE: September 26 & 27, 2012 **ALCOHOL:** 14.7%

BOTTLING DATE: February 5, 2014 **PH:** 3.671

CASES PRODUCED: 326 cases **TA:** 6.1 g/L

FERMENTATION DETAILS

Both the 667 and the Pommard blocks were hand-harvested at the end of September, fully destemmed, and cold-soaked in tank for about 8 days. During fermentation the cap was punched-down up to four times per day, with occasional pumpovers to provide oxygen to the fermentation. After the fermentation was completed we decided to do a little bit of extended maceration, keeping the wine on the skins for another week or so, before barreling down to a mix of new and used French oak.

AGING DETAILS

Malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel over about two months, with completion coming just before the holidays. At that point the wine was left to age undisturbed on the lees for approximately a year. In January of 2014 we tasted through all the free-run barrels and selected our favorite blend, which happened to be seven barrels of Dijon 667 and five barrels of Pommard. These were blended and bottled in February, 2014.

WEATHER ATTRIBUTES

The season unfolded event-free, with normal budbreak, and good winter rains to fill the soil profile, giving us the resources for a promising season. Strong and even shoot growth is one of the benchmarks for a good season. Flowering occurred late in May, which is very normal, indicating we would pick in late September. Temperatures at flowering were mild, leading to a healthy fruit set. Most of the summer months continued with mild weather, allowing for less stress on the vines and causing a slightly larger berry size than normal, which is one of the reasons 2012 was so bountiful.

The season continued quite perfectly for us growers, with no untimely weather occurrences; overall it was a mild to cooler season. September saw a few days of heat, which helped to push harvest into gear. And happily, harvest continued over the course of weeks, allowing us to focus on each of our vineyards, and blocks, picking them at peak maturity. After the stress of 2011 this was a wonderful gift. All our fruit was harvested before the first Fall rains visited the valley in mid-October.

2012 RUSSIAN RIVER RESERVE ESTATE GROWN PINOT NOIR

The 2012 Russian River Reserve is bright ruby in color, with huge aromas of blackberry, espresso, and black cherry. Intense and full-bodied on the palate, the blackberry flavors lean almost toward pie filling, and there is cassis, yet bright acidity yields cherry and cranberry flavors as well. Firm tannin holds everything together, and rich fruit flavors go on and on through the finish.

-Dan Fishman, winemaker

