

DONUM

The Gift of the Land

Our Russian River Reserve Pinot Noir is a best-barrel selection from the Winside vineyard, planted in 1997. We have developed an intimate knowledge of the blocks over the past 20 years, but we have found that several of the blocks are close enough in pedigree that the ultimate quality in a given vintage comes down to the vagaries of the growing conditions and fermentations that year. For this reason, when it comes time to select the blend for the Russian River Reserve, we keep an open mind, and allow the wine in barrel to dictate the final blend. In 2015, the Dijon 667 proved to be the better wine, and so is the predominate part of the blend.

The 2015 Russian River Reserve has a beautiful nose of candied cherry, blackberry, plum and sage. The palate is rich and intense, yet incredibly silky, with juicy dark berry flavors joined by lighter raspberry notes, and a flinty, mineral component that adds remarkable complexity. The mouthfeel is wonderfully silky, with fully resolved tannins and good acidity carrying through on the finish. -Dan Fishman, winemaker

FRUIT: 93% Dijon 667 and 7% Pommard clone from the Winside Vineyard

NEW OAK: 79% new French Oak (Remond, Cadus, Gamba, Atelier, Quintessence, Rousseau, Francois Frères)

HARVEST DATE: August 27 – September 3, 2015

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

BOTTLING DATE: January 23, 2017

PH: 3.52

CASES PRODUCED: 323 cases

TA: 6.9 g/L

FERMENTATION & AGING DETAILS

The Dijon 667 block was picked in two passes in 2015, one the last week of August and one the first week of September. Both lots cold-soaked for about a week, and then fermented slowly over the course of about two weeks. During fermentation the cap was punched down two or three times daily, with occasional pumpovers mixed in to provide oxygen to the fermentation. Once primary fermentation was completed the free-run wine was racked to barrel to undergo malolactic fermentation, followed by about a year of sur lie ageing. In December of 2016 we tasted through and selected the best barrels, and assembled and bottled the Reserve blend in January of 2017.

WEATHER ATTRIBUTES

By 2015 California was well into its five-year drought, and we saw essentially no rain during the summer and fall. Following the trend of 2014, budbreak was very early, and the season was well underway by mid-March. Growers were fortunate with similar conditions in 2014, but in 2015 our luck ran out and the early flowering in April coincided with some very unsettled weather. Seesawing temperatures, high winds, and abrupt changes from foggy and cloudy to sunny and calm were frequent for nearly six weeks. These wild swings led to shatter as flowering was interrupted, and some vineyards saw crops reduced by as much as 75%. At Donum we were relatively fortunate, averaging only about 20% loss across all blocks. This weather gave way to a fairly mild and even summer until August, when heat spikes returned and we saw several spikes in which temperatures approached triple digits. This can lead to some difficult picking decisions, as it is always risky to leave crop that is almost ripe hanging through such extreme heat. Once again we were perhaps more fortunate than some of our colleagues, and our ripening schedule lined-up such that we were able to harvest some blocks just before each heat spike, while the rest were able to hang through the heat. Overall the quality was very high in 2015, and the wines have plenty of structure indicating they should age well.

2015
RUSSIAN RIVER RESERVE
ESTATE GROWN
PINOT NOIR

