

LYNMAR

Russian River Valley

2000 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the “Russian River Valley” bottling is to blend a fruit-forward wine that reflects the character of our appellation while exhibiting the influence of the estate, the Quail Hill Vineyard. The 2000 vintage is a return to our traditional, cool growing season, allowing the Lynmar style of elegance and finesse to be fully captured in this wine.

2000 GROWING SEASON

This year is best described as a classic, typical cool growing season from start to finish. Unlike our 1999 vintage, which had a short period of unseasonably warm weather prior to harvest, the 2000 vintage remained moderate throughout resulting in excellent levels of natural acidity and refined bright berry fruit characters in our pinot noir grapes. Harvest occurred from September 9th through 16th.

THE BLEND

The blend for the 2000 ‘Russian River Valley’ bottling comes from both our original QHV blocks dating back to 1974 and our maturing younger vines planted in 1995 and 1996. In selecting this blend, I looked for barrels expressing a ‘high tone’ pinot noir fruit character – bright fruit with lively acidity – with the intent to produce a medium bodied and balanced wine with excellent fruit complexity.

WINEMAKING

The winemaking starts in the vineyard where attention to detail is paramount if the wine is to be great. After several pickings from each individual block the grapes were hand sorted, de-stemmed and gravity fed into four-ton open-top fermentors. After cold soaking, the fermentation began with the addition of Montrachet yeast. Hand punching was done two to six times daily and the total time on the skins averaged 20 days. The juice was racked off to combine in new, one or two-year-old French oak with approximately 30% being new barrels. The wine rested in oak while undergoing malo-lactic fermentation and was racked jut prior to bottling.

WINEMAKER’S NOTES

I always hope that I describe this wine as ‘elegant yet intense’. Above all else, I am looking for balance in this wine with well defined pinot noir character, a silky texture and a long acid finish that invites the next taste. I find the 2000 delivers on all accounts. Showing bing cherry style fruit with hints of earth and perfume, the wine uncoils nicely in the glass and exhibits a nice level of complexity within its feminine framework.

WINE INFORMATION:

<i>Composition</i>	100% Pinot Noir
<i>Oak Aging</i>	12 months in 100% French Oak (30% new)
<i>Cases Produced</i>	990 cases