

LYNMAR

Russian River Valley

1999 FIVE SISTERS PINOT NOIR

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Five Sisters blend is to create a wine that is amazing in its balance and texture with a silken mouth feel. Unlike the Reserve, we choose the best barrels from the entire cellar with the focus on barrels that are the epitome of grace and finesse. Subsequently the blend exhibits the feminine attributes of the pinot noir grape that so exquisitely pays homage to Lynn and Mara Fritz's five daughters.

1999 GROWING SEASON

The year was the second vintage in a row with long hang time and intense varietal character. The vintage at Quail Hill Vineyard was later than traditional norms and was pushed together by nine days of unseasonably warm weather. With no rest for the weary pickers and winery staff, our pinot harvest was spanned over five days.

THE BLEND

The blend for the Five Sisters consists of only five barrels of wine.

WINEMAKING

The winemaking philosophy 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 one to four days, the fermentation begins with the addition of our favored yeast. Hand punching was done two to six times daily and the total time on the skins averaged 20 days. The free run juice was drawn off right to four new oak barrels and to a one-year-old barrel. The wines rest in oak while undergoing malo-lactic fermentation and are racked for the first time to barrels just prior to the following harvest. The wine is aged for an additional four months before it is racked to a tank and gravity bottled.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This is a sexy, silky Pinot redolent of cinnamon, smoke, and green tea with hints of sweet leather. Nuances of chocolate covered cherries in the nose give way to ripe raspberries and plush oak in the mouth. It has a great mid-palate texture with a finish that seems to last and last.