

LYNMAR

Russian River Valley

1999 REQUIEM PINOT NOIR

PHILOSOPHY

The American Heritage Dictionary of English Language lists re-qui-em as: a) a mass or service for the deceased (in this case, a block of vines) b) a musical composition for such service (such as Requiem Mass, K. 626, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart). As I listen to Mozart's Requiem Mass, I am quite sure that this wine is aptly named— for such power and grace must be approached with great respect.

1999 GROWING SEASON

The Year—1999 is 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 is from our experimental clone block. Budded to five select pinot noir clones in 1993, this block was the basis for all of our new planting decisions. Immediately following the 1999 harvest these vines were removed to make way for our newest replanting. As if the vines knew their fate, the vines produced their most outstanding wine to date—a truly fitting requiem! The resulting wine was made using minimal to no winemaking intervention resulting in perhaps our most unique estate bottling to date.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This wine is a real feast for the senses, with hints of ripe blueberry, sweet red cherry and toasty oak. There is a slight earthiness that leans more towards sensuality than dirt. Just let your imagination go on this one. The finish lingers with long exotic spices, like sandalwood, clove, and Chinese herbs. As I look to the future of Quail Hill Vineyard and plan our replanting program for the next 10 years, I look forward to the possibility of yet another joyous requiem.