



ESTATE BOTTLED PINOT NOIR
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY : V. 2009



HARVEST DATES : SEPTEMBER 4-11, 2009

ALCOHOL : 14.5%

PH : 3.62

TA : 0.59G/100ML

BARRELS : 14 MONTHS IN 30% NEW FRENCH OAK, 70% NEUTRAL FRENCH OAK

BOTTLED : FEBRUARY 22, 2011

CASES PRODUCED : 900

VINEYARDS Foppiano Vineyards sits on a 160-acre estate in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley, where the Foppiano family has been producing world-class fruit since 1896. 100 percent of the grapes for this wine came from our estate Pinot Noir vineyards, which are sustainably farmed by fifth generation Paul Foppiano to ensure quality fruit for years to come. The 2009 vintage brought cooler, yet even, weather which balanced the wine's fruit and acidity.

WINEMAKING Our Pinot Noir grapes were harvested at night to ensure cool temperatures and to minimize oxidation of the fruit. Winemaker Natalie West believes in using the more delicate method of whole berry fermentation and, to maximize fruity aromatics and vibrant color, cold soaked the fruit in 5-ton, open-top fermenters. After gentle pressing, she places the wine in French oak barrels where it undergoes malolactic fermentation, monthly battonage, and sur lie aging to develop fruitiness and a creamy mouthfeel. About the Pinot Noir grapes, Natalie said: "I don't have to do a whole lot – the fruit from our vineyards is that good."

TASTING NOTES This vintage produced a medium-bodied Pinot Noir with ripe fruit expression but an old world austerity. Aromas of violets, red cherry, strawberry and a hint of earthy mushrooms launch into an elegant, fruit-forward cornucopia of cherry cola, raspberry and vanilla on the palate. Well-integrated acidity and smooth tannins make this a food friendly wine perfect for pairing with grilled portobello mushrooms, seared ahi tuna, or barbecue-roasted salmon.