



RUSSIAN HILL ESTATE WINERY

2008 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Vintage
2008

Appellation
Russian River Valley

Alcohol
14.5 %

pH
3.65

TA
0.62 g/100ml

Barrel Aging
100% French, 30% new
10 months

Coopers
Tonnellerie Rousseau
Tonnellerie Radoux

Production
1834 cases

91 pts, PinotReport:
“Bright, spicy Pinot that is
perfect for all occasions.”

Russian River Valley

We select fruit for our RRV Pinot noir from several small, hands-on growers located throughout the Russian River Valley in order to create a wine that represents our appellation as a whole. The fog-cooled climate and rich alluvial soils of the Russian River Valley provide the perfect conditions for growing Pinot noir. The appellation lies in an area of maximal summer coastal fog incursion providing temperate days and very cool nights resulting in wines with a bright natural acidity and full fruit flavor development due to the slow ripening and long hang times.

The 2008 growing season was remarkable for a very cold and very dry spring requiring frequent use of frost protection systems. The summer fogs were less frequent than normal producing somewhat warmer weather and therefore some earlier harvests. The vineyards comprising this wine were harvested from August 28 through September 12, 2008.

Winemaker's Notes

After sorting, the grapes were gently destemmed into small, custom designed open top fermenters and kept below 50°F for a five day cold soak. Tanks were then individually warmed to allow fermentation to take place in a timely manner followed by cooling as needed to maintain temperatures below 85°F. Thrice daily pneumatic punch downs took place during the cold soak and fermentation. Once dry, the wine was gently pressed in a membrane press keeping free run and press fractions separate. Malolactic fermentation took place in oak barrels. The wine was bottled on July 8, 2009.

The Wine

A standout vintage for our Russian River Valley Pinot noir, the 2008 has an enticing nose of orange zest, cinnamon, cloves and plums. On the palate there are additional flavors of black cherry and saffron. The wine is racy with a nice sense of zip due to its refreshing acidity. Well integrated tannins give the wine a nice structure and balance.

Russian Hill Estate is a family owned and operated winery located in the heart of the Russian River Valley. The family's philosophy is to maintain the highest degree of excellence in viticultural and winemaking practices to allow wines to fully express the various vineyards that are their source. Using the utmost care from vineyard to bottle, Russian Hill is dedicated to the production of world-class Pinot noir and Syrah.

www.russianhillwinery.com