

# 2009 Foggy Valley-Pinot noir

The 2009 vintage is considered a “classic” for grapes grown in Northern California. The regions that benefited most were the cool areas influenced by the coastal fog. The Anderson Valley is becoming recognized as one of the up and coming regions for growing Pinot noir grapes within California. This 2009 Pinot noir showcases a well-balanced style, which faithfully represents the classic varietal characteristics of this fascinating grape. This medium bodied elegant wine shows the ripe red fruits of red cherry and sweet strawberry. The aromas start off with spicy sassafras interlaced with red fruits and just a touch of earthiness. The texture is bright and sensuous as Pinot is known to be. The balanced texture is achieved by allowing the wine to rest in French oak barrels for 14 months, permitting the fruit and oak to marry together and create the lush mouthfeel which is a hallmark of Pinot noir grown in the correct regions.

The Anderson Valley, which is located in Mendocino County, is filled with grapevines and Redwoods. Grape growing and logging are two of the main resources of the county. The Navarro River runs through it bringing in the needed coastal fog, which keeps the growing temperatures ideal for Pinot noir. With its soaring hills and wide bench-lands Anderson valley has quietly become the source of grapes for many older and established wineries from other regions.

The grapes were harvested September 5, 2009. They were hand picked and immediately delivered to the winery. The grapes were then gently de-stemmed and placed in small open top fermenters. After allowing the grapes to cold soak for 7 days the fermentation was allowed to start using indigenous yeast. Once the cold soak has ended and the fermentation begins, it proceeds quite rapidly and usually is finished within 10 days. The wine is then pressed free from its skins and placed in 100% French Oak barrels. It is then monitored regularly, but not disturbed until it is ready for bottling. This wine was allowed to bottle age for over 1 year before being released.