DARMS LANE
Napa Valley

2014 PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD: Our Pinot Noir is a blend of two vineyards in the Russian River Valley. The Barron Vineyard is a Dutton Ranch property in the Green Valley area that has lighter, silty soils and develops its plush, red-fruited characters slowly. The Confidant Vineyard lies on a western facing slope in northern Russian River giving it great sun exposure and concentrated fruit with smaller berries and intense color.

APPELLATION: Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

GROWING SEASON: The 2014 vintage started with bud break in early March. Temperatures were unusually even and a bit warmer for the first half of the growing season leading to expectations of a very early harvest. Things cooled down in August and into early September allowing the grapes to slowly approach their peak, enabling us to pick at optimal ripeness. The Barron Vineyard ripened the most evenly we have seen in the past 5 vintages. The Confidant Vineyard again yielded clusters of smaller berries giving us a wine with intense color, concentrated darker fruits, and intriguing spice and mineral notes.

HARVEST DATE: Barron Vineyard September 4 and Confidant Vineyard September 12

VARIETAL: 100% Pinot Noir - 54% Barron Vineyard – 46% Confidant Vineyard

WINEMAKER: Brian Mox

BARREL AGING: 10 months in Oak – 39% new: 100% French

WINEMAKING: Each vineyard lot was fermented in open top tanks utilizing both punch downs and pump overs to obtain the desired level of extraction from the fruit. The wine went to barrel with some yeast lees that were stirred every 2 weeks for the first 5 months of aging to add body and complexity. The 2014 vintage was filtered at bottling.

TASTING NOTES: Tense and vibrant, our 2014 Pinot Noir displays fresh aromas of red cherry, dried rose petals, vanilla, and clove spice with sun-warmed stone minerality. The palate is plush with layered notes of cherry pie, cranberry relish, cinnamon and graham cracker and The wine has a fresh lively acidity, Enjoy!

PRODUCTION: 450