

Alexander Valley Vineyards®

2009 Estate Pinot Noir

The Wetzel Family's Pinot Noir vineyard is planted along the banks of the Russian River; one of the coolest locations on our estate. The vineyard is planted to just four clones - Dijon777: rich concentration, black fruit; Dijon115: soft tannins & perfume, Pommard: color, dark fruit & spice and FPMS2A: perfume, finesse, red fruit. The vines are grown using the Smart Dyson trellis system - allowing us to control the vigor of the vine while giving us flexibility to adjust the trellising to changing weather conditions during the growing season. This ensures the fruit gets adequate sun exposure, while keeping yields in check 2009 was a cooler vintage with fewer heat spikes than in past years, so the acidity of this vintage is slightly higher than prior releases.

After the fruit was hand-harvested during the first two weeks of September, each lot was kept separate. Clone 777 underwent a 48-hour cold soak and was tank fermented, while winemaker Kevin Hall placed the other lots in bins and mixed in dry ice for the first day in a technique known as cryoextraction. The dry ice fractured the grape skins, leading to deeper flavor and color extraction from the fruit. Fermentation was completed in 1/2 ton macrobins.

This is an elegant, silky Pinot Noir, with spice and some structure. Black cherry, vanilla, spice and a touch of oak are on the nose followed by subtler aromas of citrus and stone fruit. Classic flavors of plums, cherries and red-black fruits along with touches of vanilla and cinnamon combine with a silky texture, good acidity and structured finish to complete this old world styled wine. Limited production.

Food Pairing: There's a reason a lot of restaurants fill their wine lists with Pinot: it's so versatile. Try the 2009 with veal scaloppini blanketed in sautéed mushrooms, hazelnut-crusted salmon or classic slow roasted poultry.

Awards: Best Buy - 88 points - "One of the Years Best Pinot Noirs" Wine & Spirits
Gold Medal - Riverside International Wine Competition
Silver Medal - San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

Profile:

- Silky & elegant from vineyards along the Russian River
- Old world, Burgundian style



About Alexander Valley Vineyards:

Most of the wines we produce at Alexander Valley Vineyards come from the nearly 300 acres of estate vineyards planted to 13 different varietals. A large portion of the vineyards are planted to the better known varietals like Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Zinfandel. But we also grow small quantities of grapes like Petit Verdot and Malbec that are used to produce our Cabernet and CYRUS as well as Rhone varietals like Mourvedre and Grenache.

Technical Data:

Grapes: 100% Pinot Noir

Harvest: September 1-16, 2009

Barrel Regimen: Aged for 10 months in French oak, 25 percent new

Alcohol: 14% pH: 3.47 TA: 5.9 g/L

UPC: 0-85798 06872-2



Healdsburg ~ Sonoma County ~ California

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