

## 2009 Pinot Noir

Sonoma County is a complex tapestry of different wine appellations. There's few wine growing regions that offer so much variety in terms of geography and climate. Our Bell Mountain Ranch is located right at a confluence of three distinct sub-regions - in the cooler southern Alexander Valley where the Russian River Valley and Chalk Hill meet. This is where we chose to plant our tiny parcel of Pinot Noir.

Unlike our winemaking friends in other, more marginal growing areas around the world, Sonoma County typically has an abundance of heat, sunshine and dry weather to help ripen fruit to optimal levels. 2009, however, was a long, cool growing season that afforded our Pinot vineyard a steady ripening period and allowed flavors to accumulate steadily.

Our Pinot Noir is medium to light in body yet full on the pallet with notes of strawberry, dried herbs, and a nicely balanced and elegant style. Hints of confectionary cherry syrup with a touch of cola nut essence remind us of a soda fountain-made cherry Coca-Cola. An additional nuance of forest-floor-earth tones adds complexity this wine's pallet just prior to the finish. This is an approachable and easy going Pinot Noir that will develop over the next few years should you be patient enough.

### Profile

Appellation	Russian River Valley
Harvest	9-25-2009
Cooperage	100% French Oak; 50% one-year old; 50% neutral
Blend	100% Pinot noir
Alcohol	13.1%
Brix	27.1
pH	3.75
Total Acidity	5.08 g/L
Bottling	8-25-10
Production	50 cases

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