

2008 Pinot Noir

Sonoma County is a complex tapestry of different wine appellations. Our Bell Mountain Ranch is located right at the nexus of three of them - in the cooler southern Alexander Valley where the Russian River Valley and Chalk Hill meet. Here, where the influence of the Russian River helps channel cooler temperatures from the ocean, is where we planted our tiny parcel of Pinot Noir.

Unlike our wine making friends in other, more marginal growing areas around the world, Sonoma usually has an abundance of heat, sunshine and dry weather to help ripen fruit to optimal levels. 2008 had the right components but the timing was difficult. Late frosts, high winds, and high temperatures all conspired to produce a challenging vintage. On the positive side, those of us who farmed diligently, waited patiently and harvested carefully were able to produce wines of great promise.

Filled with seemingly delicate, floral aromas, this is a very pretty wine. Those cherry blossom and berry aromas are followed by a palate packed with bright acidity, warm spices and red raspberries, black cherries and some earthy notes. A wine that will develop over the next few years should we be patient enough.

Profile

Appellation	Russian River Valley
Harvest	9-30-2008
Cooperage	100% French Oak; 50% new
Blend	100% Pinot noir
Alcohol	14.1%
Brix	25.5
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	0.48 g/100ml
Bottling	7-13-10
Production	76 cases

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