



SONOMA-LOEB

2011 SONOMA COUNTY PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER PHILLIP CORALLO-TITUS

THE WINE

Our Sonoma County Pinot Noir is the stylistic sibling to our Sonoma County Chardonnay, with both wines showcasing the pure varietal character that can be achieved when these grapes are grown in the ideal locations. We sourced the fruit from top cool-climate Sonoma County vineyards, with 50 percent of the Pinot Noir coming from the fabled Russian River Valley appellation, and the other 50 percent from one exceptional vineyard in Franz Valley. The result is a fruit-driven expression of Pinot Noir with abundant spicy berry and red fruit notes, as well as refreshing acidity. It was aged for 10 months in French oak barrels and gently handled to preserve the delicate nuances of the Pinot Noir.

GROWING SEASON & HARVEST

In many ways, 2011 was more of a classic “Burgundian-style” growing season than what we usually expect in California. The unusually mild temperatures particularly favored cool-climate grapes like Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, providing greatly extended hangtime, while still allowing the fruit to preserve lovely natural acidity. Throughout the season, we worked closely with our growers to thin the crop to appropriate levels and opened up the canopy for more sun exposure. As a result, our first blocks of Pinot Noir began coming in to the winery with perfect ripeness on September 26—a week before the first rains. The few blocks that were not harvested before the rain were allowed to remain on the vine for five sunny days before being picked. The grapes were at ideal maturity, producing dark colors and concentrated berry fruit elements. To enhance their soft-tanned structure, we applied additional punch downs and allowed more time on the skins.

TASTING NOTES

The nose is enticing and attractive, with distinctive, yet delicate, Pinot Noir varietal character. Bright and lively fruit aromas of cherry, wild berry and cassis are supported by layered earth and spice notes, as well as hints of bramble, anise and toasted oak. On the palate, this wine is mouthfilling and smooth, with briary spice and generous ripe fruit. Though lush and flavorful, there is also an elegance to this wine, with toned acidity adding focus and depth to a complex, lingering finish.

WINE STATISTICS

Harvested: September 26 - October 8, 2011

Brix at harvest: 23.8

TA: 0.56 g/100 ml

pH: 3.79

Alc: 14.5%

