

Davis Family Vineyards

2001 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley

It has been called the "Heartbreak grape" because of the difficulties it brings in both the vineyards and the winery. It is the most sensitive to climate, soil, and sun, as well as every movement in the winery. It has been called transparent by some colleagues because any fault or flaw will surely show.

I am a true lover of wine, of every varietal and every area of the world for what they do best. That being said, Pinot Noir, when it is grown in the right place and in a year of good weather, put into the right hands, is the greatest wine. Pinot Noir is my Holy Grail. Its origins come from the Burgundy regions of France, the wine chosen by Kings and Aristocrats since the beginning of Europe.

Some would say "but it depends on what you are eating...or what the situation" but that in itself is one of the best features of great Pinot Noir...it is wonderfully versatile...perfumy, complex and soft enough to be outstanding without any food at all, but with more complexity and richness on the palate to marry with foods ranging from salmon to lamb (both perfect with Pinot!).

Lush textures in the mouth that keep bringing you back to the glass all night. Always aromatic red or black fruit character, with hints of baking spices like a cherry pie just pulled from the oven, nuances like roasted coffee or tea, maybe smoky, leathery or earthy, which can pair so well with mushrooms, or meats. Floral scents appear in wines from many vineyards. Great Pinot Noir is serious complexities and silky mouth feel, it is perfume mixed with power, it is sensual yet dominating, it is pure pleasure from the first smell to the velvety, mouth coating finish. The Davis Family 2001 Pinot Noir is a blend of our own vineyards, Dutton Ranch and Martinelli Family.

Our growing area, Russian River Valley has cool coastal temperatures which is important for Pinot; if the area is too warm, even 15 miles east in Napa Valley for instance, the finicky Pinot grapes will ripen too quickly and the flavors will not have the time to create the extra layers that make the wine so special. The warm California sunshine brings us the ripe, lush fruit, and our soils bring us much of the nice brown spice character, however it is important to me that the wine also has some stylings of its origins in Burgundy, so our methods are all done by hand using many very traditional practices.

The Pinot Noir is treated even more gently than our other artisan wines. The Pinot Noir is never pumped; we use only gravity and controlled air to transfer the wine. The bins are smaller so not one grape is broken before reaching the winery. We only pick our Pinot Noir at sunrise when the fruit is 50 degrees or colder...and 1000 other detailed tactics we use in our quest for the perfect Pinot.

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