



**AMERICAN WINES**  
SINCE 1835

**VIRGINIA DARE 2014 RUSSIAN RIVER PINOT NOIR**

*History*

Located in Sonoma County's Geyserville, Virginia Dare Winery celebrates the myths, people, places and history that shaped American winemaking. The story of the Virginia Dare Winery began with North Carolina's first commercial winery, Medoc Vineyard, which opened in 1835. Two businessmen, known as the Garrett brothers, purchased the property in 1865 calling it Garrett & Company. They began producing the Virginia Dare label which quickly became one of the nation's top selling wines. The Family Coppola has revived the vintage charm of the original line and applied old-fashioned American ingenuity to the development of exquisite new wines worthy of carrying forward Virginia Dare's legacy. We use the finest heritage varietals known to thrive in California soils, and we combine the best contemporary winemaking techniques with the classic American spirit that Virginia Dare represents.

The Virginia Dare Showcase Wines are inspired by Virginia Dare herself. Born in 1587 to English parents in the Lost Colony of Roanoke, Virginia's story is linked to the myth of the White Doe and the origins of wine in America.

*Vintage Notes*

The warm 2014 weather was extremely favorable for farming high-quality grapes. Bud break and bloom occurred during excellent weather and veraison (the time when grape berries soften) also occurred quickly, further ensuring an outstanding vintage. The Pinot Noir was so well developed and early that we were able to pick at earlier brix to capture the cassis, black raspberry, and spice that Russian River Pinot Noir is known for while maintaining its gorgeous cranberry acidity. As grape growers, we felt extremely lucky to be blessed with such an easy growing season.

*Winemaker Notes*

"I think of the Russian River as being like the base of a tree whose roots are in the ocean; here, powdery clay soils and nightly blankets of fog combine to create an ideal viticulture environment for Pinot Noir. For the 2014 Pinot Noir, fruits from warmer zones of the valley contribute plum tones and blueberry. Cooler zones contribute some structure and bright red fruits. We were able to play up these aromatics and flavors with elegant French oak regimes, producing an exemplary Russian River Pinot Noir." Sandy Walheim

*Tasting Notes*

Exotic notes of sandalwood set the scene for soft tones of red and black cherry, red plum, and blueberry, expressing a hint of floral violet and culminating in a concentrated, roasty finish. The 2014 vintage carries a round, oaky structure with elegant tannins, lingering on the palate with silky warmth and just enough juiciness.

*Winemaking Analysis*

APPELLATION: Russian River Valley, Sonoma County, California	ALCOHOL: 13.9%	BARREL REGIMEN: 12 months in French oak
BLEND: 100% Pinot Noir	pH: 3.60	HARVEST DATES: Late September 2014
	TA: 0.54 g/100ml	WINEMAKER: Sandy Walheim

