



Francis Ford Coppola
DIRECTOR'S CUT

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2015 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR



“Winemaking and filmmaking are two great art forms that are very important in the development of California. They both start with raw ingredients—in the case of wine, the land and the grapes, and in the case of film, the script and the actors’ performances. The winemaker takes these raw materials and ferments and blends. He says yes to one batch, no to another. The director does the same thing: a series of yeses and nos, from casting and costuming to edits and sound mixes. In both cases you have to start with top notch raw materials—whether it’s the land or a script.”—Francis Ford Coppola

AN ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

In the film business, the “Director’s Cut” emerged as a means for filmmakers to present their own creative vision of a story. At the Francis Ford Coppola Winery, *Director’s Cut* wines were created as a way for wine “director” Corey Beck to craft wines that would reflect his own unique interpretation of the quintessential Sonoma wine. Corey’s vision for *Director’s Cut* embraces appellation-specific sourcing, meticulous fruit selection, and numerous blending trials so that our wines capture the distinct nuances of Sonoma’s micro-climates in a highly refined style well-suited to fine cuisine and premium wine lists.

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

The Russian River Valley climate is defined by a regular intrusion of cooling fog from the Pacific Ocean a few miles to the west. Much like the tide, the fog ebbs and flows, arriving each evening, cooling the area down from its daytime temperatures by as much as 35 to 40 degrees. This natural air conditioning provides for an extended growing season where the grapes mature slowly for optimal development and maintain a good level of natural acidity. The Russian River Valley’s loam and alluvial soil compositions create a very rich and fragrant Pinot Noir that offers pronounced floral notes and a distinct earthy character.

VINTAGE PROFILE

While the 2014 growing season both started and finished ahead of schedule, our 2015 season broke the record for being the earliest yet. Persistent dry conditions reduced yields, resulting in beautiful flavor concentration and elegant aromatics. Warm, consistent temperatures contributed to very high quality fruit. The grapes reached maturity and were ready for picking in August.

WINEMAKER’S NOTES

After the grapes were pressed, we used open-top fermenters and punched down the cap several times a day for extraction. When fermentation was complete, the wine was placed in a combination of new and used French oak barrels. During the maturation process we rack the wine several times to gently remove sediment so that the wine exhibits vibrant color. Our 2015 Pinot Noir offers tremendous depth of character, in-

cluding good weight and a velvety palate along with sturdy but supple tannins. This vintage is incredibly spice driven. A dazzling perfume of blackberries, wild strawberries, cardamom, anise, and toasted wood is followed by juicy flavors of plums, cherry pie, and vanilla bean.

Blend: 100% Pinot Noir

Alcohol: 13.9%

Barrel regimen: 6.5 months; 20% new French oak