

# GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

## 2022 McDonald Mountain Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

### VINEYARDS & VINTAGE NOTES

McDonald Mountain Vineyard is nestled in a very cool area near the border of the Russian River Valley and the Petaluma Gap, where the fog is first to arrive inland from the Pacific Ocean in the morning, and last to burn off in the afternoon. The vineyard was planted in 2008 on one to four feet of Goldridge sandy loam underlain with Los Osos clay. The diverse clonal selection includes 115, 667, 777, Pommard, 828 and Elite, the latter being a suitcase selection that produces exotic fruit characteristics. The cool temperatures, daily fog, breezy afternoons, steep slopes and dry farming practices all contribute to the production of very small, but extremely flavor-packed clusters and berries that always retain plenty of natural acidity. 2022 can best be described as “early”. It began with a cold, dry winter that led to early bud break. Serious frost in April and an unexpected hailstorm in May caused damage to new growth and flowers, impacting yields. Hot Summer temperatures led to an early onset of harvest, with harvest ending on September 9th, the earliest in our winery history. Despite the rapid pace, flavors and tannin were concentrated and acidity was vibrant, creating wines that rival those of the beautiful 2021 vintage.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Grapes were harvested in the early morning hours then brought to the winery. After hand sorting, 68% of the grapes were de-stemmed, then transferred to open-top tanks, while 32% of the fruit was added on top as whole clusters. The juice was chilled to 45°F and allowed to cold soak for 4-7 days before fermentation. During fermentation, the cap was gently punched down 3-4 times per day. After fermentation, the new wine and its solids sat in tank for 10 days of extended maceration. The wine was then gently pressed off the skins and seeds, inoculated for malolactic fermentation and racked into 42% new French oak barrels for 15 months of barrel aging on primary lees.

### TASTING NOTES

Cool-climate intensity and savory character is on display, opening with aromas of eucalyptus, bay leaf, and coastal forest, reminiscent of a winter walk through a redwood grove. The palate surprises with an upfront burst of juicy red and dark fruits, including elderberry, before settling into layers of black tea, citrus peel, and subtle spice. Firm, pronounced tannins and a touch of oak frame the finish, underscoring the wine’s compelling tension between freshness and power that defines this site.



**APPELLATION**  
Russian River Valley

**COMPOSITION**  
100% Pinot Noir

**FERMENTATION & AGING**  
15 months, 42% new  
French oak

**ALCOHOL**  
14.2%

**PH / T.A.**  
3.41 / 7.30 gm/L

**PRODUCTION**  
313 cases

**BOTTLING DATE**  
February 2025

**RETAIL PRICE**  
\$75.00



[garyfarrellwinery.com](http://garyfarrellwinery.com)

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