

# GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

## 2023 Sebastopol Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

### VINEYARDS & VINTAGE NOTES

This Pinot Noir blends fruit from three Sebastopol Hills vineyards—McDonald Mountain, Marshall Ranch, and Thorn Ridge—each rooted in Goldridge sandy loam soils. McDonald Mountain Vineyard, near the Russian River Valley–Petaluma Gap border, offers cool fog, diverse clones, and steep slopes for vibrant, flavorful berries. Marshall Ranch's coastal fog moderates temperatures, producing elegant wines with vivid acidity and layered complexity. Thorn Ridge Vineyard, planted in the mid-1990s west of Sebastopol, features a steep east-facing slope where dry-farming yields concentrated, expressive Pinot Noir. 2023 was a very long, cool growing season, resulting in our latest start and finish to harvest on record. The extended hang time at lower temperatures provided gorgeous fruit with stunning flavors, structure, and complexity for another vintage of beautiful wines.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

Grapes were hand-harvested in the cool early morning hours to ensure optimal fruit integrity, then brought to the winery for careful sorting and de-stemming. About 12% of the fruit was kept as whole clusters for fermentation. The whole clusters were layered atop the destemmed berries in a small open-top oak fermenter to contribute aromatic lift, structure, and complexity. Following a five-day cold soak, the must was inoculated with yeast. Fermentation temperatures were closely monitored, and extraction was managed through daily punch-downs to maintain a balanced tannin profile. After dryness, the wine remained on skins for an extended maceration of over ten days to further enhance complexity and soften tannins. The tank was then drained, and the must gently pressed using our Bucher basket press. The wine was aged for 15 months on primary lees in French oak barrels (40% new).

### TASTING NOTES

This Sebastopol Hills Cuvée, blending fruit from McDonald Mountain Vineyard, Marshall Ranch, and Thorn Ridge Vineyard, opens with aromatic layers of eucalyptus, savory bay leaf, bramble, and boysenberry pie. The palate offers concentrated dark fruit complemented by a stemmy, spicy, and woody character, framed by dusty tannins and lively medium-plus acidity for a balanced, compelling finish.



**APPELLATION**  
Russian River Valley

**COMPOSITION**  
100% Pinot Noir

**FERMENTATION & AGING**  
15 months, 40% new  
French oak

**ALCOHOL**  
14.3%

**PH / T.A.**  
3.32 / 7.20 gm/L

**PRODUCTION**  
418 cases

**BOTTLING DATE**  
February 2025

**RETAIL PRICE**  
\$65.00



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

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