

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2020 BACIGALUPI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Vineyards

In 1956, Helen and Charles Bacigalupi purchased 121 acres of prime vineyard land along Westside Road in the heart of Russian River Valley. And, in 1964, they were among the first in the area to plant Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The Bacigalupi family grapes garnered fame in 1976 when they were used to make Chateau Montelena's winning entry in that year's Paris Tasting. Our Pinot Noir grapes for the 2019 release came from one of the newer vineyards called Frost Ranch, located just across the road from the original plantings. The ranch was purchased by the Bacigalupi family in 1993 and Block 9 is planted entirely to Wente selection Pinot Noir, which produces a classically elegant Russian River Pinot Noir.

Vintage

What an interesting year 2020 was around the world, and here in wine country as well. The growing season began with one of the driest winters in memory, and certainly the driest February in recorded history. The dry weather continued through the spring months and even into summer, leaving the vines with very little soil moisture to maintain a healthy canopy. Water stress can create beautifully concentrated wines, and that's precisely what we're observing. Budbreak and flowering began a couple of weeks ahead of the previous season, indicating an early onset of harvest. The summer weather was relatively mild, with very few heat spikes, so the vines soaked up the sun, producing a beautifully balanced crop with small to moderately sized clusters. Moving into late summer, veraison was early, but the weather and the crop were looking pretty close to ideal. In the middle of August, wildfires caused several interruptions and cut the harvest short by a great deal, but neither the winery nor the vineyards suffered damage.

Winemaking

Grapes were harvested in the cool morning hours and then brought directly to the winery. After carefully hand sorting, 80% of the fruit was gently destemmed, then transferred to a small, open top-tank with a cooling jacket. At that point, 20% of the hand-selected bunches were added to the top of the tank as whole clusters, and the fruit was chilled to 45°F to cold soak for seven days before fermentation was started. During fermentation, the cap was punched down 2-3 times per day, with an occasional, gentle juice pump-over through a screen, only as needed to cool the fermentation and boost the yeast's oxygen. After fermentation, the newly fermented wine and its solids were allowed to sit in a tank for 12 days of extended maceration, during which the tannins softened, and the primary fermentation esters developed more complexity. The wine was then gently pressed off the skins and seeds, inoculated for malolactic fermentation, and racked into French oak barrels (light toast Ana Selection, Dargaud & Jaegle, and Tonnellerie O) for 15 months of aging on primary lees.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of dried cherries, strawberry rhubarb, and cranberry scones introduce this wine from the iconic Bacigalupi vineyard. Delicate perfume, peonies, and citrus flowers intermingle with hints of wild mushrooms, tea leaves, and forest floor. Exceptionally vibrant and fresh, flavors of blood orange, red fruits, and spice coat the palate and deliver a classic expression of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

Appellation

Russian River Valley

Vineyards

Bacigalupi Vineyard

Composition

100% Pinot Noir

Fermentation & Aging

15 months in 40% new French oak

Alcohol

14.5%

pH / T.A.

3.42 / 6.9 gm/L

Production

209 Cases

Bottling Date

January 26, 2022

Release Date

February 2024

Retail Price

\$75