

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2020 ROCHIOLI-ALLEN VINEYARDS PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Vineyards

The grapes for this outstanding Pinot Noir come from the historic Allen Vineyard, located on the opposite side of Westside Road from Rochioli. Both sites are farmed by the Rochioli family. Each clone and field selection were chosen to take advantage of specific soil type, elevation, and exposure to the sun, generating wines that are vibrant and powerful, yet delicate and balanced. Some of the oldest vines have been nurtured by three generations of the Rochioli family. This blend is composed entirely of Pommard Selection from the Allen Old (planted 1974) and New (planted 1996) North Hill blocks.

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 to the winery. After careful hand sorting, ~80% of the fruit was gently de-stemmed, then transferred to small, open-top tanks and 20% of the fruit was added later as whole clusters. The juice was chilled to 45°F and allowed to cold soak for five days before fermentation was started. During fermentation, the cap was gently punched down 2-3 times per day. After fermentation, the new wine and its solids were allowed to sit in a tank for ten days of extended maceration, a period during which the tannins softened, and the primary fermentation esters develop more complexity. The wine was then gently pressed off the skins and seeds, inoculated for malolactic fermentation, and racked into 40% new French oak barrels (light toast François Frères, Tonnellerie O, & Ana Selection) for 15 months of barrel aging on primary lees.

Tasting Notes

Immediate salivation occurs as aromas of sour cherry, hibiscus and satsuma emerge, followed by savory hints of curry leaf, rose bud and sandalwood. Don't let the garnet red color fool you; this wine is absolutely packed with concentrated flavors of ripe, juicy Bing cherry, black raspberry, blood orange, Assam black tea and tangy tamarind fresh from the pod. Succulent acidity and palate-coating tannins lend an intensity that continues from the first sip through to the persistent, velvety, penetrating finish. A stunning expression from an iconic vineyard.

Appellation

Russian River Valley

Vineyards

Rochioli & Allen

Composition

100% Pinot Noir

Fermentation & Aging

15 months in 40% new French oak

Alcohol

13.7%

pH / T.A.

3.30 / 6.8 gm/L

Production

141 Cases

Bottling Date

January 27, 2022

Release Date

February 2024

Retail Price

\$90