

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2021 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

2021 was a spectacular vintage. It was a drought year, so Mother Nature was responsible for trimming yields and producing a plentiful and beautifully balanced crop. In 2021, the clusters were medium in size and the berries were plump with a good number of seeds, excellent skin to juice ratio and beautiful acidity. The summer months gave us beautiful ripening weather with very few heat spikes, allowing the grapes to ripen evenly, while having time to develop lots of flavor. Veraison began in mid to late July, and the weather until harvest was perfectly moderate, yielding excellent hang time and world-class wines.

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

The Rochioli-Allen pinot is classically deceptive, and this vintage is no exception: The first glance reveals a light, unassuming wine. The first smell floods your olfactory receptors with fresh-baked cherry and rhubarb crumble, drawing you in for more, yet surprising you again with tangy, concentrated flavors of raspberry coulis, tangerine pith, dried roses, and a hint of savory herbs. Youthful tannins are persistent on the mid-palate and finish, combining with succulent acidity to tell the tale of a wine that will continue to divulge more layers through the years.

Appellation

Russian River Valley

Vineyards

Allen Vineyard

Composition

100% Pinot Noir

Fermentation & Aging

15 months in 40% new French oak

Alcohol

14.1%

pH / T.A.

3.37 / 6.5 gm/L

Production

343 Cases

Bottling Date

February 10, 2023

Release Date

September 2024

Retail Price

\$95