



RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS



Place Matters
Sonoma County, California

2008 RESERVE PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

WINEMAKERS	Rick Sayre, Tom Klein (vintner), David Ramey (consultant)
WINE GROWERS	Doug McIlroy, Bob Steinhauer (consultant)
ALCOHOL	14.9%
TA	0.59gm/100ml
PH	3.70
APPELLATION	Russian River Valley
BLEND	100% pinot noir, (46% clone 115, 46% clone 777, 8% clone 114)
CELLAR & FERMENTATION	10 months in 100% French oak barrels

PHILOSOPHY

The Russian River Valley is well established as one of the premier pinot noir growing regions in the world, and we have been growing and making pinot noir here for over forty years. Our Reserve is the winemaker's artisanal blend of individual wines made from time tested, meticulously farmed sections of some of the very best vineyards in Russian River Valley. Each lot is vinified separately, aged in our finest barrels, and then selected by the winemaker for complexity, concentration, and grace.

IN THE CELLAR

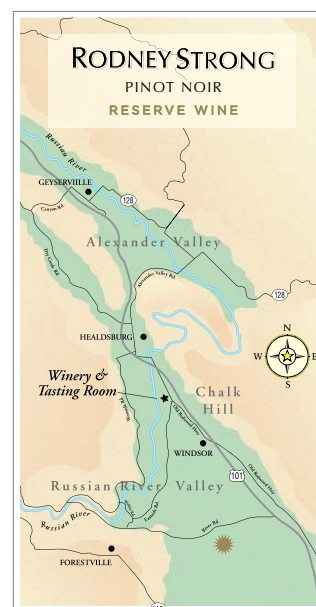
In 2008, we crafted our Reserve pinot noir in our "Winery Within the Winery." Techniques, such as cluster pre-sorting, berry sorting, cold soaking, and a free-run only protocol are accomplished in a truly state of the art facility, with small tanks and equipment sized for the most discriminating vineyard selection process.

IN THE VINEYARD

For the second year in a row, the 2008 vintage started off with a very dry spring, which typically produces smaller clusters, smaller berries, and less canopy overall. Frost visited many vineyards over several nights in April, further reducing potential yield. Then a hot spell engulfed the region in the middle of May, while grape clusters were flowering, again threatening to lower yields. The main growing season, however, was without incident, with warm to hot days and cool nights the rule. Hand-picked at night, this pinot noir was harvested over four days between August 29 and September 1.

TASTING NOTES

Soft and rich, with layers of red cherry, raspberry, cola, caramel, and a hint of Asian spice, this impressive, deeply colored and full-bodied wine is aged in 100% French oak, which adds an elegant toasty vanilla character. Enjoy this voluptuous pinot noir now and over the next 3 to 5 years.



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