

GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

2014 RUSSIAN RIVER SELECTION PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARDS

Our Russian River Selection bottlings are quintessential Russian River Valley wines blended of grapes from some of the region's top vineyards, taking advantage of varied climates and unique site characteristics. The Hop Kiln and Floodgate vineyards are located in the Middle Reach subdivision, where close proximity to the river awards foggy mornings, warm and sunny days, and cool nights – the perfect balance that characterizes the Russian River Valley. The Toboni and Nonella vineyards are located in the Santa Rosa Plains, a distinctly cooler and foggier sub-region, and the Hallberg and Stephens sites within the Green Valley sub-appellation exhibit even more extreme and cooler conditions. A beautiful expression of the varietal and of the appellation's unique terroir, this Pinot Noir blend captures the richness, purity and elegance that are Gary Farrell Winery's trademarks.

VINTAGE

The 2014 vintage was one of the best and earliest recorded starts to harvest in the past decade. We were extremely grateful for another amazing vintage despite the ongoing drought conditions, which contributed to lower yields, smaller berries, great intensity and tremendous concentration of flavors. Although harvest started early, the grapes did not ripen prematurely. The mild winter and spring weather, combined with dry conditions and long, sunny days, led to early onset of grapevine development (bud break, bloom, véraison), but overall hang time was close to normal, so the flavors were ready when it came time to start picking in mid-August. Moderate temperatures persisted throughout the season, allowing us to pick everything at optimal ripeness levels. Since we started early, we avoided the usual mid- to late-September heat wave and we were almost finished by the time some other producers were just getting started. The wines from 2014 have great balance, structure, concentration, and most of them are well below 14% alcohol, with excellent aromatics.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were harvested in the cool morning hours then brought directly to the winery. After a careful hand sorting, the fruit was partially de-stemmed (leaving a small percentage of whole clusters to add structure, spice and terroir) then transferred to small, open-top tanks with cooling jackets. The juice was chilled to 45°F then allowed to cold soak for 5-7 days before fermentation was started. 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 give the yeast a boost of oxygen. After fermentation, the newly fermented wine and its solids were allowed to sit in tank for 10-15 days of extended maceration. The wine was then gently pressed off the skins and seeds, inoculated for malolactic fermentation and racked into 35% new French oak barrels (light and medium toast François Frères, Ana Selection, Chassin, Remond and Ermitage) for 8 months of barrel aging on primary lees. The wines were racked off the primary lees only once, just before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Finesse and elegance are hallmarks of this delightful appellation blend. Vibrant notes of wild strawberries, raspberry preserves, and pomegranate fill the glass. Delicate aromas of rose petals and violets intertwine with a backdrop of cinnamon, grated nutmeg, pink peppercorn, and dried cloves. Medium bright upon entry, flavors of cherry cola and Ceylon black tea coat the palate and are balanced with traces of vanilla and blonde toast.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

VINEYARDS

Hallberg, Rochioli, Toboni, Floodgate, Martaella, Hop Kiln, Kozel, Nonella, Stephens, Pratt-Lakeview

COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir

FERMENTATION & AGING

8 months in 35% new French oak

ALCOHOL

14.1%

pH / T.A.

3.48/6.6 gm/L

PRODUCTION

9,917 Cases

BOTTLING DATE

July 23, 2015

RELEASE DATE

May 2016

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE

\$45