

# GARY FARRELL

VINEYARDS & WINERY

## 2014 ROCHIOLI-ALLEN VINEYARD PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

### VINEYARDS

The grapes for this outstanding Pinot Noir come from two vineyards in the heart of Russian River Valley: the renowned Rochioli Vineyard and Allen Vineyard on the opposite side of Westside Road. Both sites are farmed by the Rochioli family. Each clone and field selection was 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 predominantly of Pommard Selection from the Allen Old (planted 1974) and New (planted 1996) North Hill blocks, and the balance is Pommard from the Rochioli River Block.

### VINTAGE

The 2014 vintage was one of the best, and certainly the earliest recorded start to harvest in the past decade! We are 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. Grapevines can benefit from a dry climate because it pushes them into a state of stress, causing them to produce denser, more complex flavors, while also protecting them from mold and mildew pressure that is often associated with humid conditions. 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 pretty close to normal, so the flavors were ready when it came time to start picking in mid-August. Moderate temperatures persisted throughout the harvest season, allowing us to pick everything at optimal ripeness levels. Because 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.

### WINEMAKING

Grapes were harvested in the cool morning hours then brought to the winery. After a careful hand sorting, fruit was partially de-stemmed, then transferred to small, open-top tanks. Approximately 10% whole clusters were included in the fermentation to add layers of spice, site specificity and a polished structure. The juice was chilled to 45°F then allowed to cold soak for 5-7 days before fermentation was started. During fermentation, the cap was punched down twice per day, with an occasional gentle juice pump-over through a screen, as needed to cool the fermentation and give the yeast a boost of oxygen. After fermentation, the new wine and its solids were allowed to sit in tank for 10-15 days of extended maceration, a period during which the tannins soften 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 and medium toast François Frères, Ana Selection, Chassin, Remond and Ermitage) for 16 months of barrel aging on primary lees. The wines were racked off the primary lees only once, just before bottling.

### TASTING NOTES

The Allen Vineyard grapes consistently present alluring qualities of earthiness and spice, and 2014 was no exception. Savory aromas of anise and clove permeate the glass while notes of dried figs, dates, and cherries provide balance. Exceptionally bright and fresh upon entry, the palate is supported by subtle flavors of cedar and cola. Silky tannins from carefully selected French oak barrels and post-fermentation maceration lend elegant structure to this beautiful wine, and will enable it to age gracefully for many years to come.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

#### APPELLATION

Russian River Valley

#### VINEYARDS

Rochioli Vineyard,  
Allen Vineyard

#### COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir

#### FERMENTATION & AGING

16 months in 40% new  
French oak

#### ALCOHOL

14.2%

#### pH / T.A.

3.42 / 6.9 gm/L

#### PRODUCTION

369 Cases

#### BOTTLING DATE

February 17, 2016

#### RELEASE DATE

May 2017

#### RETAIL PRICE

\$75