WILLIAMS SELYEM

2009 Allen Vineyard Pinot Noir

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

My first impression was strawberry shortcake. I know that may sound odd, but my glass had these floral notes of ripe strawberries and raspberries with a cinnamon spiciness and freshly baked white cake. The berry flavors were much more intense across my palate, as the toasty oaky flavors came through in the finish. A great backbone of both tannin and fresh acidity will only extend the life of this wine for years to come.

—Winemaker Bob Cabral

THE VINEYARD

The Allen Pinot Noir Vineyard surrounds our winemaking facility. This Russian River Valley hillside vineyard was planted in the early 1970's, and produces low yields of exceptional quality Pinot Noir.

HARVEST 2009

Following the hardships of the 2008 growing season, late winter and spring of 2009 were unseasonably warm with little precipitation. Bud break occurred early March and unlike 2008, frost was not a problem. Berry set was even, benefitting from ideal daytime temperatures around 70F-75F, despite early May rains. Some bunch-stem necrosis was evident on our vineyards, resulting in loss of yields.

The summer months were characterized by cooler than average weather, aided by morning fog, with very few heat spikes during the fruit ripening stage of the vine growth cycle. This resulted in intense flavor and aroma development, good acidity and phenolic development in tune with sugar accumulation. Warmer weather in late August ensured optimal ripeness culminating in harvest commencing in earnest by the Labor Day weekend. A warm September ensured that all Pinot Noir (Russian River, Sonoma Coast and Central Coast), Zinfandel and Chardonnay were picked before the mid-October rains that played havoc with later ripening varieties. Moderate yields delivered wines of exceptional color, flavors, and aromas with balanced acidity and tannins.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 63% new oak, 37% 1-year-old
Barrel Aged: 18 months
pH: 3.56
TA: 0.65g/100mL
Alc: 13.7%
Released Fall 2011
$82