

JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

2916 LAGUNA ROAD, FORESTVILLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY.
SONOMA COUNTY, CA 95436 PHONE 707.573.3747 www.SwanWinery.com

2017 Pinot Noir - Cuvée de Trois - Russian River Valley

THE VINEYARDS:

The vineyards for this wine are all located in the heart of the Russian River Valley, approximately 15-18 miles from the Pacific Ocean. They represent a variety of soil types, viticultural practices and clonal selections, but each carries the overriding characteristics of the best of the Russian River Valley. The blend varies from year to year. This year it includes wine from our 50+ year-old Trenton Estate Vineyard, Trenton View, Saralee's, Catie's Corner, Ritchie, Solas, DNA and Great Oak.

WINEMAKING:

This wine was produced from a multiplicity of clones of pinot noir. Each block of each vineyard was harvested and fermented separately. Fifteen to twenty percent of each lot was left as whole clusters with the balance de-stemmed into open top fermenters. As fermentation began on it's own by wild yeast, the cap was punched by hand three times per day during the peak fermentation to extract color and flavor and to control fermentation temperature. After an average of 21 days on the skins, the wine was pressed off, settled briefly and then racked to French Burgundy barrels, around 31.5% new, for 10 months of aging before selection, blending, and bottling. Each barrel of each lot was individually tasted and numerous blending trials were conducted before the final blend was decided upon. Only then did the wine receive its' first racking as it was assembled for bottling, unfinned and unfiltered. The production in 2017 was just over 225 cases. 13.1%ABV.

THE WINE:

The primary goal in bottling this wine is to produce a pinot noir that speaks of the terroir of the Russian River Valley as a whole and best reflects the character of the vintage. The one constant with this wine each year is that it consists of a blend of each of our vineyard designates and nothing else. Our intent is to craft a wine that marries all of the best elements of the vineyards and the vintage. A little lighter in color than the fairly dark and lush 2016, it also has a bit higher acidity. All of the usual C3 elements are present however, including a potpourri of red fruits, flowers and a bit of forest floor. The term "food wine" has been so overused that it has lost most of its meaning but this wine actually fits the bill which why it has been a constant on restaurant lists far and wide.

