

JOSEPH SWAN VINEYARDS

2916 LAGUNA ROAD, FORESTVILLE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY.
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2015 Pinot Noir - Trenton Estate Vineyard

THE VINEYARD:

An iconic vineyard in every sense of the word, our Estate vines seem to be finally getting the recognition that they deserve. When Joe Swan first planted pinot noir vines here it was because he had been convinced that the area was so cool that it was the grape of choice. Little did he know that 50 years later it would be thought of as one of the most important vineyards in all of the Russian River Valley, producing wine that from the beginning defined the terroir of this little spot on Laguna Ridge.

WINEMAKING:

Each block of the vineyard is harvested separately as it reaches maturity. Each lot is then fermented and aged separately. Fifteen to twenty percent is left as whole clusters with the balance de-stemmed into open top fermenters. Wild yeast fermentation ensued after a 3 day 'passive' cold soak. 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 oak barrels for 18 months of aging before selection, blending and bottling. The wine is unfinned and unfiltered. 317 cases produced.

THE WINE:

Sometimes a year comes along that just does not fit the mold. A committed terroirist prizes a sense of place and often feels a wine is not "proper" if it does not exhibit that. But once in a while, a wine can be so utterly delicious that this short coming is overlooked. Many of the 2015 Russian River Valley Pinot Noirs are in this category. Rich, full, and delicious now, but not really representative of the Russian River Valley to me. My belief is that the sense of place will show in time, but right now, it is overshadowed by the sheer voluptuousness of the vintage.

Gorgeous aromas of red berries and cherries with a slight hint of mint. In the mouth, it is amazingly lush, with just enough acid to brighten it. Silky and full, the finish is long and smooth. I predict a bright future for this wine, but it hard to resist!

