

Davis Family Vineyards

2002 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley

Supple, sensual strength!...Perfume mixed with power...full-flavored elegance...these are all qualities I strive for in Pinot Noir.

With this wine, as with every wine I make, I try to have it speak of the vintage and of the place from which it is grown. I believe this wine does both. The direct translation of "Noir" is dark, and this wine is truly that.

The 2002 growing season was warm and sunny from the time the April rains quit until the middle of September when this fruit was picked. Those warm temperatures brought about deep, beautiful color and very ripe, rich fruit character; not tart pie cherry but luscious black cherry; not raspberry but boysenberry and plum. The final reflection of the sunny summer months is in the round, silky smooth texture of this wine- that is a product of the tannins getting very ripe so they are mouth coating and not harsh or astringent.

Although we had nice warm days allowing this juicy fruit character to show its vine- ripened goodness, we were also having cool, foggy nights which is typical of the Russian River Valley. When the inland valleys get hot, that warm air rises and causes a vacuum that sucks the cool air and fog up the Russian River from the Pacific Ocean.

What that means is that even with the beautiful weather during the day the vines shut down their ripening at night, which extends the time the grapes have to stay on the vine to reach maturity. That extended "hang time" creates complexity by giving time for other flavor chains to form...like the aromatic brown spice and coffee aromas you notice, or the hints of flowers and forest floor...

Russian River is famous for its cool nights and complex wines and is often said to have a cherry cola note which many of you comment on from our Pinot each year.

This 2002 is primarily from our own vineyards along with a few rows from our favorite blocks in the Dutton Ranch. I hope you find the combination of big fruit flavors from Mother Nature's warmth and layered complexity from our Russian River location to be a hit, and that you have as much fun sipping it as I did in growing and crafting it.

The Davis Family Pinot Noir has never gone a season without collecting Gold Medals and we expect this to be no different, and you as **Friends of the Family** wine club members get an additional 10% on any reorders, but do not delay as it always sells out within a few months of release.

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