

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

FOUR VINEYARDS, LOS CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY 2015

A PERFECT CIRCLE PINOT NOIR



- CCOF Certified Organic Vineyards
- RSV owns and farms all vineyards
- No purchased fruit, RSV planted every vine
- 100% Pinot Noir
- Lot by lot selection for structure and expression
- Heirloom selections and French clones
- Barrel aged 12 months
- 100% French oak barrels, 30% new

Winegrowing Notes

The vintage of 2015 came during the fourth year of drought. Though the cluster counts were average to above average, the weight of the small, concentrated clusters were lower as the Pinot Noir vineyards reacted to the extended drought with smaller yields overall. This was a curse, as there was less fruit, but a blessing in that the tiny but mighty clusters exhibited intense fruit character and concentration. Hand-harvested at night at optimal ripeness, each vineyard block came to the cellar cool, fresh and kissed with morning dew. Native yeast started the fermentation in the vessel that best expressed the character of the particular selection - open box with hand punch or open top fermenter with pneumatic punch and cap irrigation. Each lot was fermented dry then put to rest in RSV's caves for a year in French Oak barrels.

After barrel age, lots were selected by taste where each vineyard block from RSV's Four Vineyards on the Napa side of the Carneros could contribute unique qualities in crafting a transcendent Pinot Noir.

Tasting Notes

A ruby garnet hue is as alluring as the wine's high-tone rose and sage essence, followed by cherry, red berry bramble, forest floor, cinnamon and clove aromas. The complete bouquet is unmistakably that of classic Pinot Noir. The first sip is bright and youthful, with flavors of strawberry, raspberry and red plum followed by undertones of pipe tobacco and a hint of tar. The finish is long thanks to polished tannins that are a present and equal partner to the wine's mouthwatering brightness. This 2015 vintage is the Pinot you want with roasted birds or pork, lamb, or lean cuts of beef fresh off the grill.

The equivalent of 481 cases produced for 962 - six bottle cases.

FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.

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Pinot Noir winegrowers are an opinionated bunch. Each will convince you that they have unlocked the secret to growing and making great Pinot Noir... and many have. When we started making wine over 30 years ago, it was difficult to find drinkable Pinot Noir let alone great Pinot Noir. In those days, the quest was to plant in a cool climate and acquire the "right" field selection or clone. We in the New World had an inferiority complex with our existing - what we now call "heirloom" field selections - and felt the need to try out the newest import, unintentionally shunning the distinct beauty of our uniquely adapted field selections. We were insecure with our origins because we felt they had something we didn't. At the time, we didn't realize the opposite was also true.

Pinot Noir winemakers were considered the rebels on a folly's quest. We stuck together because misery loves company. We would gather to discuss our craft in places like Steamboat Oregon or the Central Coast of California and invite illuminati guests from the Mecca of Pinot - Burgundy. We would talk soil, trellising, fermentation, to ferment with stems or not, wild or cultivated yeast, punch or pump, cold soak or not, type of barrels and what percentage new and all the minutiae that only a Pinot lover could obsess about. But the conversation always returned to location, clone or field selection. Some felt site was key while others felt clones were as, if not more, important. Then the question turned to whether or not one clone was the way to go while others advocated for as many different clones or selections as possible. Should we focus on single vineyard wines or a cuvée from many locations? We were all trying to achieve our vision of great Pinot Noir - and we were all right because the wine just kept getting better. Still, some wines stood out from the crowd. Though I think a single vineyard Pinot Noir can make a great, pure expression of Pinot Noir - as we have expressed with our Three Amigos, Vandal and Capa Vineyard Pinots. Even though these are single vineyard winesthey are still cuvées of multiple clones and specific sites or blocks within the single vineyard and their strength can also be their weakness in that their expression can be limited by micro-climate and the weather of that particular vintage.

A cuvée from several sites within the macro-climate of a larger region allows the winemaker to create a fantasy wine. We all have "that wine" that grabbed us and made us want to pursue the "heartbreak grape" regardless of the financial risk. Having several locations within a region, planted with different "heirloom" and French clones allows us to reach into our flavor memory banks to create a cuvée that embodies that fantasy style of Pinot Noir that inspired us in the first place.

The Four Vineyards Pinot Noir is just such a fantasy wine. Careful farming, heirloom preservation, select French clones and sites that span the Napa side of the Carneros from the most southern tip to the northern boundary, is what contributes to the whole and allows site by site and clone selection to create the "ideal" wine of the vintage. One that deftly navigates that space between power and elegance for a wine that is our fantasy of great Pinot Noir.

