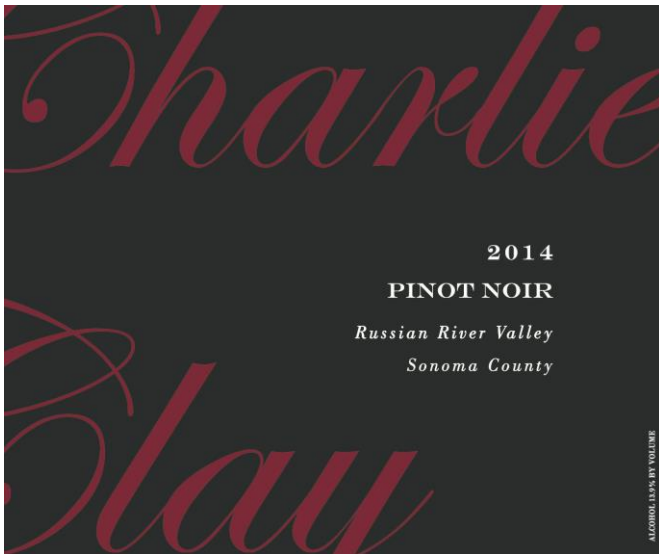


2015 Charlie Clay Pinot Noir

Russian River Valley



Production:	Approximately 318 cases
Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Composition:	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyards:	70% Calejari Vineyard 15% Dutton Campbell Vineyard 15% Palmer Estate Vineyard
Alcohol:	14.28% by volume
pH:	3.71
TA:	5.78 g/L

Winemaker Notes

The 2015 vintage comes off the tailwinds of three spectacular vintages; 2012, 2013 and 2014. 2015 was also the fourth year of severe drought. Despite winter rains, a warm and dry January encouraged bud break a few days early. The particularly cool month of May prolonged the bloom period, thus it was common for clusters to have millerandage*, fantastic for wine quality but it severely limited yields. As we narrowed in on harvest, we spent countless days in the vineyards tasting grapes and watching the weather, so that the little fruit we had, came in perfect. And it did!

The 2015 Charlie Clay Pinot Noir is a blend of three distinct vineyards. For each vineyard, we were able to tease out the subtleties of each site by fermenting in three unique vessels. This allowed us to incorporate whole cluster, native fermentations, and use a wide range of cap management styles. As a result, when we blended our 2015 Charlie Clay Pinot Noir, we blended barrel by barrel as some fermentations resulted in only 1-2 barrels of wine. The intricacies of our early work are exemplified in this delicious, nuanced classic Russian River Valley Pinot Noir. The 2015 has a deep magenta color. In the glass, there are intense aromas of ripe cola-berry, lilac, plum and hints of loamy earthiness. On the palate, the entry is bright, followed by perfumed black raspberry, ground coffee, and black tea leaf. While enjoyable now, this wine will drink best over the next 8-10 years and age gracefully for many more after that.

*millerandage - or shot berries, hens and chicks and pumpkins and peas is a potential viticultural problem in which grape bunches contain berries that differ greatly in size and, most importantly, maturity.

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