

Iron Horse Vineyards 2003 Estate Pinot Noir Technical Data

Appellation: Sonoma County-Green Valley

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: The most distinctive character of Iron Horse Pinot Noir is that it goes beyond the bright fruit character typical of the Russian River area, showing deeper, more earthy flavors that are special to Green Valley. This is a very expressive, stylish wine. It has extraordinary depth of flavor and yet the weight and texture of the wine are still so light and silky, it just glides across the palate.

Precision Farming. Precision farming is a fact-based wine growing philosphy that utilizes the latest technology - GIS/GPS mapping and CAD computer models - focusing on smaller and more tighly delineated vineyard blocks by soil type, aspect and elevation. All pruning, canopy mangement, irrigation, cover crop and harvesting decisions are determined on a block-by-block (and sometimes even vine-by-vine) basis, considering both the vintage at hand and the long term needs of the land. We use the best tools technology provides and up to date viticulture - balanced by our 30 years of experience and thriving passion.

Vineyard Specifics: This wine represents a blend of five distinct blocks of vineyard within the Green Valley estate, at the heart of Sonoma County's star Pinot growing country, parts of which were replanted in the late 80s specifically for still wine. Green Valley's principal soil type is called Goldridge and is the most sought after for Pinot Noir because of its unique mineral balance, which greatly contributes to wine quality.

Average Age of the Vines: 17 years at harvest.

Harvest Dates: September 15 - 20, 2003.

Winemaking Techniques: Hand picked grapes are de-stemmed into stainless steel tanks where they are cold-soaked for seven days. When fermentation is half way complete, the new wine is pressed gently from the skins and transferred to French oak barrels. Fermentation then goes to completion in the barrels, allowing us to stir the lees as the wine ages prior to blending and bottling.

Barrels: French
Blend: 100% Pinot Noir
Malolactic Fermentation: 100%
Date Bottled: June 2005
Residual Sugar: Dry

Alcohol: 13.9% v/v **Acidity**: 0.6 g/100ml

pH: 3:51

Release Date: October 2005
Total Production: 2,725 cases
Suggested Retail Price: \$35/bottle

Food Pairings: Chanterelle salad, winter squash soup with a dollop of cream, salmon, grilled quail, duck with fruit sauce, veal, pan roasted pork tenderloin rubbed with allspice and cumin, lamb every way possible, venison, pasta with Red Hawk cheese and walnuts, Camembert cheese.

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