



## 2009 Russian Cuvée

**Russian Cuvée** commemorates the style of sparklings we made for the historic Reagan - Gorbachev summit meetings, which ended the Cold War. It is the richest, most opulent of the Iron Horse bubbles, though it is still technically a Brut.

### Technical Data

**Appellation:** Green Valley of Russian River Valley

**Blend:** 74% Pinot Noir 26% Chardonnay

**Alcohol:** 13.5% v/v

**Acidity:** .80 g/100ml

**Residual Sugar:** 1.1 g/100ml

**pH:** 3.06

**Malolactic Fermentation:** None

**Harvest Dates:** August 19 - September 14, 2009

**Date Bottled:** August 2010

**Release Date:** Current disgorging, October 2013

**Total Production:** 800 Cases

**Suggested Retail Price:** \$40.00

**Artisanal Winemaking:** Hand harvested in the chilly fog of early morning, our Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes are gently pressed as whole clusters yielding base wines of great delicacy. The juice ferments slowly at 62° to 65° f retaining vibrant fruit esters. In blending this wine we chose Pinot Noir and Chardonnay lots that were a bit shy by nose but still showing an appropriate hint of varietal character. What was once shy now exhibits wonderful complexity and creaminess that comes from three plus years aging on the yeast. The dosage for this wine is 14 mls of special LEX (50% Pinot Noir, 50% chardonnay).

**Precision Winegrowing:** At Iron Horse "Estate Bottled" means that the winemaking begins in the vineyard. Our location in Green Valley represents the very best soil, climate and aspects for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Our goal is to grow the best winegrapes through what we call "precision winegrowing." All pruning, canopy management, irrigation and cover crop 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.

**For Sparkling and Still Wine, Precision Harvesting is Key:** Our only rule is to make the best wines we can. We wait until harvest to decide sparkling or still, as the key difference is the brix level (or the amount of sugar in the grapes, less for sparklings, more for still). Then winemaker David Munksgard considers berry size (bigger is better for sparklings, smaller for still), the health of the canopy, clone selection, even small details such as the relative dampness of the cover crop can make a difference. If necessary, parts of the same block may be picked on different days.

**Tasting Notes & Food Pairings:** By nose: toast, ripe apple and hazelnut. By mouth: rich baked apple, tangerine and custard. This is a perfect toasting wine. It is lovely with dessert, especially pumpkin, apple and pecan pies and anything to do with ginger and spice



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