



Merry Edwards Winery

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2001 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Klopp Ranch

Ted Klopp's ranch sits on a crest of Laguna Ridge bordering the western edge of the wintertime lake known as Laguna de Santa Rosa. The vineyard soils are unusual, the most sandy of any found in the Russian River Valley. Consequently, Pinot Noir grown here requires continuous irrigation, right up to the day of harvest. Ted's careful management supports the vine's production of intensely flavored grapes, year after year.

Planted with the Swan selection and Pommard clone of Pinot Noir, Klopp Ranch produces small-berried clusters with deep flavors, voluptuous texture and impressive structure. Using *Méthode à l'Ancienne* techniques, I cold-soaked the grapes and fermented the fruit in small, open-top tanks, punching down by hand three times daily. These Burgundian practices maximize the wine's expansive aromas and flavors. The wine aged ten months in French oak barrels prior to bottling.

The 2001 grapes were wonderfully intense, allowing me to craft a luxurious wine with abundant charm and excellent aging potential. Mouthwatering aromas of blueberry, blackberry and black cherry set the stage for tiers of extravagant flavors. This sumptuous Pinot Noir is rich on the palate and has the tannin structure to age, making it ideal for collectors of full-bodied Pinots and appealing to lovers of big red wines.