



Merry Edwards Winery
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2002 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Klopp Ranch

Big, bursting and beautiful, the 2002 Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir is a deeply layered wine that expresses concentrated fruit aromas: Bing cherry, Santa Rosa plum and blackberry. Cola, toasty oak and a bit of chocolate reinforce the dark fruits.

Rancher Ted Klopp farms for intensity, committed fully to growing the finest fruit. With Swan and Pommard clones planted in sandy Goldridge soil, the site requires careful water management and severe crop thinning. Ted's exacting practices produce grapes I purchase by the acre rather than by the ton, my way of recognizing the extraordinary quality of his work.

Klopp's Pinot Noir grapes have unmatched character: deep color, rich aromas, solid structure and bountiful tannins. Using my Méthode à l'Ancienne approach and aging the wine in 75% new French oak barrels, I secure these natural traits and develop the wine's enormous potential to age well over many years. Klopp Ranch may be the longest lived of our Pinot Noirs.

Complex, dense and richly textured, this opulent offering has the most generous tannins of any wine I produce. It deserves a substantial food companion, perhaps venison or buffalo. Serve it with a cheese course featuring a heady triple cream alongside dried figs. As it softens with age, this Pinot Noir - served in big, bowled glasses - will complement a grilled grass-fed beefsteak or a deluxe hamburger laced with black truffles.