

2008 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir  
Russian River Valley  
Klopp Ranch

This unique site was planted to Pinot Noir in the late 1980s and is still farmed today with pride and dedication by our good friend Ted Klopp. The vines overlook the Laguna de Santa Rosa, from a ridge top bordering the western edge of this wintertime lake in central Russian River Valley. Here the sandy, well-drained Goldridge soils help create tiny berries that result in striking wines of great depth. A diverse collection of clones — Swan and Pommard along with Dijon 115, 667 and 777 — gives us many options from which I can assemble a memorable blend each year reflecting the site's timeless personality.

The character of this vintage seems a bit more exotic than usual, with allspice and juniper berries accenting a core of classic toasty, bramble-blackberry fruit. Cola, plum, bacon and cocoa add complex layers to the aroma. The palate is smooth and supple upon entry, becoming increasingly tarry and ripe with aeration. Tannins are bountiful but softly understated and lush leading to a stately, extended finish.

For our Fourth of July family dinner, I prepared a pulled pork dish created by Eleanor Preger, a longtime customer and now a contest winner. Klopp Ranch Pinot was a great match for the smoky character of the salsa and the rich, tasty roast. The meat was served folded into handmade corn tortillas, along with a green salad and strawberry tart, both made fresh from our garden. You'll find all the details on our website Recipe Page under *Pulled Pork Preger Style*.