KLOPP RANCH

Klopp Ranch lies in an area of Russian River Valley Merry has named “The Golden Triangle.” This narrow expanse of land is blessed with moderate climate and excellent drainage provided by sandy Goldridge soils. Located northwest of the Santa Rosa Plain, on the eastern slope of Laguna Ridge, it overlooks the Laguna de Santa Rosa wintertime lake.

Ted purchased his 37-acre property in 1982. Beginning in 1989, he planted his vineyard in small blocks, seeking Merry’s advice from the outset. At her suggestion, he acquired budwood from Tom Dehlinger, including a field selection from Joseph Swan Vineyards and a non-heat treated Pommard clone. For the later plantings, Ted again consulted Merry, who recommended three Dijon clones, 115, 667 and 777.

Merry and Ted have developed a close working partnership over the years. They regularly confer about the effects of specific vineyard cultural practices on his Pinot Noir. “We both know what she is looking for, and I aim for her target,” Ted explains. Her acreage contract with Klopp Ranch rewards Ted’s practice of keeping yields low and in balance with vine vigor, thereby concentrating fruit character.

“Klopp Ranch gives me small-berry clusters with profuse dark fruit and blackberry aromas along with earthy flavors,” says Merry. “The forward fruit is intense while the lush texture is rich and expansive.”

Acreage: 37 total; 26 planted
Exposure: South/southeast
Soil type: Goldridge Sandy Loam
Years planted: 1989 — 1999
Rootstocks: AxR; SO4; 10114
Scion wood clones: Pommard (non-heat treated); Pommard 5 (heat treated)
Dijon clones 115, 667 and 777
Field selection: Joseph Swan Vineyard
Vine spacing: 8 x 12, 8 x 10 and 8 x 6 feet; vertical trellis
Appellation: Russian River Valley