Diversity builds complexity. When composing my Russian River Valley blend, I depend on grapes grown on a variety of ideal sites by masterful farmers in our region. I treasure the classic cherry aroma and round mouthfeel which are characteristic of the Santa Rosa Plain. Sebastopol Hills provides enticing perfume and bright acidity. Laguna Ridge contributes black fruit and rich tannins. The 2001 vintage brought me superb grapes with bright, focused flavors and exceptional depth.

Here is a vibrant Pinot Noir, expressing the region in an ideal vintage. Using grapes from Olivet Lane, my own Meredith Estate and Klopp Ranch, I cold-soaked the whole berries to enhance the fruit’s bright cherry and raspberry flavors. Ten months of aging in French oak has gently lifted the fruit and contributed a creamy vanilla component.

Enticing aromas precede succulent flavors: Bing and Royal Ann cherry, Santa Rosa plum and red raspberry. Smooth and silky on the palate, this Pinot Noir delivers everything it promises, opening in seductive layers. The luscious fruit, supported by gentle tannins, extends through a long, expansive finish.