



Merry Edwards Winery

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2002 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

This lovely Pinot Noir is a harmonious chorus, testimony to the quality of Pinot Noir grapes from the Russian River Valley. The wine expresses the mouthwatering characteristics that drive winemakers and collectors to seek Pinot Noir from our region. While my vineyard designated wines each reflect a specific microclimate and terroir, my Russian River Valley blend personifies the appellation.

Striking cherry and berry aromas radiate from this wine, a blend I compose each vintage from grapes grown in small, personally-tended vineyards. Both the wine's full fruit expression and promise of longevity began with my high quality growers, farmers who cultivate under ideal conditions for Pinot Noir, allowing the grapes to reach maturity, slowly and fully.

I separately fermented the grapes from five vineyards, then blended the wine to create a fusion of Pinot Noir's beguiling qualities – luscious fruit and plush texture. Ten months of aging in French oak barrels added nutmeg and a hint of cocoa, complementing the forward blackberry and dark cherry fruit.

This juicy, exuberant Pinot Noir has an intriguing touch of cola that suggests pairing it with spit-roasted, pastured chicken, grilled pork with wild mushrooms or a sandwich of barbecued flank steak. These foods highlight and accent the wine's generous fruit profile.

Smooth and succulent, the 2002 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir finishes with a degree of soft tannins, indicating the wine is poised for a long life of increasing complexity. Enjoy its youthful charms, and in the coming years, be thankful you have aged a few bottles in your cellar.