



2009 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Klopp Ranch

The core of this wine is composed of grapes from Ted's oldest block of Pommard and Swan Pinot Noir planted in 1989. Rounding out the blend is some additional Pommard fruit from a section established several years later, along with a touch of 12-year-old Dijon 115 and 667. Lauren Klopp now assists her dad with caring for this precious vineyard. She has embraced farming seriously, losing sleep whenever growing conditions are not completely perfect! It's wonderful to witness the evolution of another dedicated generation.

This Klopp Ranch is bold, forward and appealing. When I tasted a glass recently, it brought back memories of my days at Mount Eden Vineyard in the 1970s. The best Pinots I made there had a unique aroma of black pepper. This distinctive characteristic is clearly present in the 2009 vintage. Add to this loads of dark hedgerow fruit, chocolate, anise and sweet toasty oak. It's smooth on the entry with plenty of firm tannins and excellent length, making it a serious candidate for long-term aging.

The dish I have paired with this wine was created by Caroline Chang, a recent Magnum Contest Winner. You will find her yummy recipe for Hoisin and Orange Glazed Pork Loin with Quinoa and Arugula Salad on our website. It's a complete meal — all I added was a warm, pull-apart Épi from our hometown bakery. Congratulations, Caroline!