



2011 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Klopp Ranch

My longtime partnership with Ted Klopp has resulted in more than a decade of beautiful Merry Edwards Pinots from his ranch on the sandy Laguna Ridge here in Russian River Valley. Ted now farms the property with his daughter, Lauren, at his side. It's great to have the enthusiasm of a younger generation to carry on the tradition of careful farming and stewardship.

The 2011 vintage provided us with yet another classic Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir. The wine's heady, perfumed aroma literally overflows with a profusion of concentrated hedgerow fruits – utterly reminiscent of one of my summer berry pies. Accents of tarry wood spice, black currant, anise and black pepper deepen its complexity. The mellow palate is packed with rich, grainy tannins – it seems to virtually expand in the mouth toward the broad, firm finish. This is a Pinot Noir that deserves long-term aging.

I have paired this luscious wine with barbecued ribs prepared with my husband Ken's Secret Sauce. The earthy richness of the sauced ribs is a counterpoint to the expansive dark berry profile of the Klopp Ranch. The accompaniments I selected are tasting host Lori's magnum-winning *Modern Three-Bean Salad* and our son *Matt's Stuffed Squash Blossoms*. Although I am still waiting for Ken to reveal his secret, you can find their creations on our recipe page at www.merryedwards.com.