



Merry Edwards Winery
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2003 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Klopp Ranch

Grower Ted Klopp and I have been working together as partners for more than a decade, collaborating on decisions that achieve the rich berry flavor and firm structure of his Pinot Noir grapes. His vineyard, located on the Laguna Ridge, is exceptional; the fine sandy soil provides excellent drainage, and his exacting vineyard practices produce remarkable intensity, year after year.

At Klopp Ranch big fruit flavors are born in small-berried grape clusters. I maximized the generous personality of the grapes using *Méthode à l'Ancienne* techniques including cold soaking, small tank fermentation and frequent punch downs by hand. Ten months in French cooperage, crafted by the best artisans, enriched the wine's dark fruit character.

The 2003 Klopp is mouthwatering and luscious, its brambling blackberry flavor elegantly accented by cassis. Traditionally the plush, fine-grained tannins develop a velvety sweetness with extended bottle age. Pair this big wine with robust dishes: smoked squab, Moroccan-spiced leg of lamb, or a medallion of fine Kobe beef.