



Merry Edwards Winery

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2002 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Olivet Lane

Sitting on prime benchland in the Santa Rosa Plain, Olivet Lane is one of our appellation's oldest Pinot Noir vineyards. The vines, over thirty years old, clearly convey the dramatic flavor that is the hallmark of Russian River Pinot Noir - captivating black cherry. This is my sixth consecutive vintage of Olivet Lane Pinot Noir, always a classic in my repertoire.

The ripe grapes have attractive, concentrated flavors, which I enhance using *Méthode à l'Ancienne*, select techniques inspired by the traditions of Burgundian winemaking. The grapes cold soak in small, open-top vessels, contributing richness and smooth texture at the onset of vinification. During fermentation I punch down the cap several times daily to extract fully the intense flavors from this legendary vineyard. Aging the wine for ten months in seventy-five percent new French oak imparts a toasty accent to the succulent cherry flavor.

Elegant, with a pleasing touch of earthiness, this is a rich, alluring wine with a soft, luscious mouthfeel. Violets distinguish the inviting bouquet. The flavors expand, layers unfold and the finish lingers, forecasting a long life for this superbly integrated, silky Pinot Noir. Pair this wine's deep fruit character with salmon fillets grilled over apple wood.