



Merry Edwards Winery
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2005 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Flax Vineyard

This wine is our inaugural offering from Toby and Phil Flax's vineyard in the northern, upper reach of Russian River Valley. The vines are located on a hillside along Westside Road, a prominent Pinot Noir neighborhood. Flax Vineyard is planted with the classic Pommard clone, a great match for this temperate location. We produced only six barrels for this premier vintage.

Using my time-honored Méthode à l'Ancienne system of cold soaking, fermentation in small open-top vessels and punch downs three times daily, we captured the vineyard's abundant fruit expression. Ten months aging in French oak barrels, fifty percent new, lifted and framed the rich, perfumed flavors.

Bursting aromas of framboise, warm spice and a hint of white truffle precede a profusion of luscious flavors: concentrated cassis, dark plum and sweet licorice. Deep and silky, this lively Pinot Noir has an extraordinary, extended finish.

Flax Pinot Noir complements richly flavored dishes such as smoked tuna, miso-coated black cod or free range chicken grilled over lavender cuttings. At home Ken and I like to serve this wine with fresh figs stuffed with Parma prosciutto.