



2011 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Flax Vineyard

The Flax family recently sold this property to Steve Hicks and his wife, Donna. They are excited about working with us and value our continued relationship with the vineyard. I am pleased to have new partners who have already made many improvements. Wild pigs have invaded Westside Road over the past several years, and there is now a new pig- and deer-proof fence. An old water system has been upgraded to provide more consistent drip irrigation to the vines in the fall. Oak trees that were shading the edges of the vineyard have been beautifully trimmed, which is beneficial for both the trees and the vines.

A vintage of outstanding character, this Pinot displays a bright, high-toned aroma with ripe plum, juicy red huckleberry and perfumed rose. Subtle toasty oak adds an earthy element, while a dash of shaved chocolate and black tea completes the profile. The entry to the palate is smooth yet precise, showing good acidity and excellent structure. These attributes ensure the long-term aging potential that is traditional for wines from this hillside along Westside Road.

I decided to experiment with dishes to craft something special to complement this vintage of Flax. The result is *Merry's Rabbit Ragout with Maitake*. Both main ingredients are locally grown while the vegetables come from our new home's garden in Sebastopol. You will find my latest dish online at www.merryedwards.com.