WARRENS’ HILL

In 2009, Merry and Ken leased this beautiful hilltop vineyard site from Nancy and Louie Sanchietti. The property was originally planted by Warren Dutton and had been producing stellar Pinot Noirs under various winery labels for two decades. Over the past several years, it became apparent that this 20-year-old vineyard was in severe decline, so the decision was made to replant Windsor Gardens fans will be delighted to learn that Merry has used this opportunity to give new life to its memory. Lee Martinelli saved a handful of vine cuttings from that venerable old vineyard. New plants were propagated and grew up in a nursery until their installation in the spring of 2012. The soil was revitalized with the incorporation of organic fertilizers, including mushroom mulch.

With its rebirth, the vineyard has been given a new name — Warrens’ Hill. Our Angel Wing productions have been a tribute to Merry’s son Warren who passed away in 2006. At her son’s birth, she quickly realized his multiple disabilities dictated his need for a strong name. Warren Dutton had been a friend of Merry’s for many years and was a strong, respected figure here in Russian River Valley. Warren Arnold is another good friend, renowned stone sculptor and staunch supporter of Merry’s wines going back to her Matanzas Creek days. These two men were chosen as Warren’s stalwart namesakes.

Warrens’ Hill honors Warren Dutton’s former establishment of this site and the surrounding vineyards on this tiny hill as a wonderful grape growing environment for Pinot Noir. At the same time, the vineyard will be a perpetual, loving tribute to Merry’s son Warren. We look forward with anticipation to the release of the first wine for this special planting.

Acres: 5.5
Exposure: Hilltop; east and southeast
Soil type: Goldridge sandy loam
Rootstock: Schwarzmann
Year planted: 2012
Scion wood clone: Windsor Gardens field selection
Vine spacing: 5 x 8 feet vertical
Appellations: Green Valley and Russian River Valley