



2016 Merry Edwards Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
Klopp Ranch

I have been growing this wine with Ted Klopp, and now his daughter Lauren, since the mid-1990s. Their vineyard overlooks the western edge of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in the middle of Russian River Valley. Soils are classic Goldridge, deep and sandy, providing the drainage that is vital to producing wines of such rich and enticing character. The collection of clones planted there — Pommard, Swan, Dijon 115, 667 and 777 — offers up a unique aroma and textural profile. This diverse heritage provides a deep complexity to the blend each year.

Our senses are greeted with a volley of sweet, ripe fruit — dark cherry, black Catalina plum, rich olallieberry and warm blackberry compote. This is quickly followed by fragrant scents of David Austin rose, red licorice, cola, milk chocolate, cumin and coriander.

The entry is broad, full and succulent, with velvety tannins unfolding on the middle of the palate. Balanced, lively and firm, the intensity continues to build toward the lightly toasted, lush finish. Since its first vintage in 1999, Klopp has always been a wonderful wine to age, if you can wait!

I like to use vegetables fresh from my garden for this *Savory Fall Stew*. Yukon gold potatoes and Nantes carrots add intense flavor. The “stew” meat has been upgraded to a flat iron steak — the tenderness is totally worth it! Serve with a green salad and crusty French bread as a hearty meal to enjoy with our Klopp Ranch Pinot. As with all of our recipes, you can find this one on our website at merryedwards.com.