



2019 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY COOPERSMITH VINEYARD

The 6½-acre Coopersmith Vineyard surrounds our winery and is one of the important estates in our selection of vineyard-designate Pinot Noirs. A wet spring in 2019 threatened to encourage an overly vigorous canopy. In response, we allowed the native grasses to grow tall to encourage drying in the vineyard and to balance the canopy growth. It looked a bit overgrown, but our goal was achieved by not mowing early. We have opted not to till in most of our vineyards—a more sustainable approach that creates healthier soils for microbes to thrive undisturbed and allows us to use less fuel.

VINTAGE

The deep purple color and aromatic nose bode well for the 2019 Coopersmith Pinot Noir. The perfume rising from the glass brings scents of cocoa, blueberry, nutmeg and other brown spices, along with lush red and black fruit and floral notes of violet and plumeria. This showy yet friendly wine, typical of Coopersmith, already exhibits excellent balance, with broad, structured tannins supporting a succulent and juicy core.

PAIRING

We're honored to present a fabulous recipe from culinary star Dustin Valette of Valette Restaurant in Healdsburg: *Cocoa-Crusted Duck Breast*. "This dish is one of my favorite presentations of duck that I have done!" Dustin says. "The cocoa nibs add great texture and the granola bar, as crazy as it sounds, is delicious with the Coopersmith Pinot!" Find this recipe at merryedwards.com.