



MERRY EDWARDS  
WINERY AND VINEYARDS

## BUCHER VINEYARD

In 1958, the Bucher family founded their dairy on Westside Road and they have run it ever since then. In 1997, John Bucher decided to diversify and started planting Pinot Noir on the property. Located in the Middle Reach area of the Russian River



Photo by George Rose

Valley, the highly regarded grapes soon became “Bucher Pinot Noir” vineyard designates for neighboring wineries, as well as their own brand. Merry and Ken had been talking with John and Diane Bucher for many years about purchasing grapes from Bucher Farms, and 2016 ended up being the right time to do it. Merry chose 2 hillside blocks of Pinot Noir that were available: North Pyramid, planted to the Pommard clone,

which does exceptionally well on Westside Road; and Frost Hill, planted to Merry’s own clone, UCD37. Merry challenged her newly hired associate winemaker, Heidi von der Mehden, to make the first Bucher vineyard designate. Heidi made all of the winemaking decisions, from calling the pick to barrel mix to final blend. The Bucher vineyard gives complex aromas of dark fruit and floral scents balanced by a savory component. This leads to dark fruit and broad tannins on the palate.

- ❖ **Appellation:** Russian River Valley
- ❖ **Acres:** 1.93 (Frost Hill); 1.2 (North Pyramid); (38 acres total)
- ❖ **Exposure:** Hilltop & NE/SW (FH); Hillside, NW/SE (NP)
- ❖ **Soil type:** Yountville clay loam
- ❖ **Rootstock:** 420A, 101-14
- ❖ **Year planted:** 2008 (FH); 2009 (NP)
- ❖ **Scion wood clone:** UCD37 (FH); Pommard (NP)
- ❖ **Vine spacing:** 5 x 8 feet, vertical spacing