

2008 Thorn Ridge Ranch Pinot Noir

Neither typical Russian River nor typical Sonoma Coast, the vibrant acidity, deep, dark berry profile and savory earthy character of this Pinot Noir make it a tasty crowd pleaser.

Farmed by Ted Klopp with sustainable practices, this vineyard is located high in the Sebastopol Hills, in an area which had previously been designated Sonoma Coast, but is now part of the expanded Russian River Valley appellation. The character of the fruit is neither typical Russian River nor typical Sonoma Coast. The deep dark berry profile is the result of the steep east facing aspect high above the fog line and the goldridge soils. The clones are Pommard, Swan, and 777 and are from the upper and lower parts of the ranch.

Tasting Notes

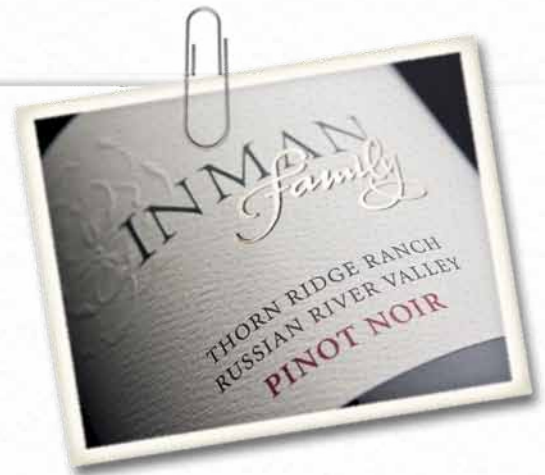
Color: Deep ruby

Aroma: Blackberry, black cherry, smoky dried herbs, exotic spices

Flavor: This is a luscious wine with ripe blackberry and cherry flavors. Secondary fruit components include black raspberries, an almost saline/sea breeze hint along with California bay leaves. The wine has a rich, round mid-palate with balanced tannins. The finish is velvety and long, with a beautiful earthiness redolent with smokey lapsang sou chong tea and dried lavender. This wine should continue to improve with careful cellaring until at least 2017.

Winemaker Notes

The fruit was destemmed and cold soaked for 4 days in open-top 5-ton stainless steel tanks. A spontaneous fermentation with natural yeast occurred. The wine was pressed off when dry and aged in a combination of new, one year and two year old French barrels: about 40% was new. A native malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel. The wines were kept on their lees, even after blending, and stirred weekly until February 2009 and then monthly until August 2009. The wines were filtered by crossflow and bottled on July 2009.



Wine Specs

Vintage	2008
Varietal	Pinot Noir
TA	0.66
PH	3.70
Aging	11 Months in French Oak (40% New)
Fermentation	Native
Bottling Date	August 2009
Residual Sugar	0
Tannin	Medium to high for Pinot Noir
Alcohol %	14.5