



Moonshine Ranch Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
2011

Vineyard Character

This petite vineyard is densely planted at 2,500 vines per acre and is situated on rocky fertile ground with lots of exposed cobblestones. The rows are North – South oriented which allows for indirect sunlight to have its effect on the even ripening clusters. Three Dijon clones were grafted onto rootstock to match climate behavior and the unique properties of each specific soil series. Moonshine Ranch is named for the century-old draughty barn on the property. The high rafted building stands as a relic for times of old, as its heyday was during the prohibition era, serving as a small factory for prune brandy.

Wine Statistics

The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After being picked the fruit undergoes a five day cold soak, for the early extraction of flavors and color, followed by a wild yeast fermentation that promotes greater character and depth when the wine matures. The grapes in the fermentation tank are pressed and the wine is barreled down un-racked while it is still fermenting, allowing it to better marry with the new French oak barrels. The wine completes the sugar and the malolactic fermentations in barrel and then ages on its gross lees for one year. Our Pinot Noirs usually do not require racking or aeration during aging. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, it is un-fined and un-filtered, and is clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 485

Tasting Notes

The 2011 Moonshine Ranch Pinot Noir is thick with aromas of leather, root-beer, and sweet tobacco. Flavors include red licorice, black-raspberry, and bright cherry, with firm tannins and a long, smooth finish.

Historical Acclaim

2011 Vintage

- 91 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

2010 Vintage

- 92 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 92 points James Laube - The Wine Spectator

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green