



**Moonshine Ranch Pinot Noir**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2012**

**Vineyard Character**

This petite vineyard was planted in 1995 and 1996 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 raftered 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.

**Growing Year**

This was a fairly mild year, similar to 2007 and 2009. The harvest looked like it was going to be early because of the early heat and bud break, but this ended up being a long, drawn out season with consistent growing temperatures. The wines have good tannins, structure, and a nice acid balance, due to the long growing season.

**Wine Statistics**

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 in 70% new French oak. 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: 558

**Tasting Notes**

The 2012 Moonshine Ranch Pinot Noir shows a forward, savory, spicy nose of sassafras, cherry, cola, and pomegranate. The palate is deeply flavored and vibrant ripe plum and raspberry.

**Historical Acclaim**

2012 Vintage

- 92 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 91 points Robert M Parker, Jr. The Wine Advocate

2011 Vintage

- 90 points Robert M Parker, Jr. The Wine Advocate
- 91 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 93 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green