

PAUL HOBBS

2021 PINOT NOIR FRAENKLE CHESHIER VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Owner: Jim Neal
- Clonal selection: 777, 667
- Rootstock: 101-14
- Plant date: 2001
- Soils: Goldridge fine sandy loam, Pajaro fine sandy loam
- Exposure: 0-3% slope, full exposure
- Trellis and pruning: vertical shoot positioned (vsp), bilateral cane
- Yield: 3.17 tons/acre

GROWING SEASON

One of the best vintages in recent memory, 2021 will be remembered for its intensely flavored berries, a smooth harvest and most importantly, exquisitely balanced, nuanced, and vivid wines. The season began with historically low rainfall which, coupled with a cold winter, delayed bud break. However, despite the cooler start to the year, the remainder of the season proved to be temperate with no relevant unfavorable weather events. Warm temps and mild May weather conditions, for example, favored a compact bloom and an extremely uniform fruit set with highly desirable small berries and moderately sized, well-spaced clusters. Meanwhile, summer's long, cool mornings and warm afternoons permitted the fruit on the vine to take a slow, leisurely ride to full maturity—excellent for the physiological fruit development we prize. Harvest kicked-off punctually at 12:01 am, September 6, and after six glorious weeks, blessed our house with a fine crop of remarkably delicious, energetic, young wines.

HARVEST

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- Harvest date: October 2

WINEMAKING

- Hand-sorted while still cold from the field
- 18% whole cluster inclusion
- Fermented in small, open-top stainless steel tanks with indigenous yeasts
- 5 day cold soak, 14 day maceration
- Gentle punchdowns
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation
- Aged 9 months in French oak barrels; 25% new
- Cooper: Taransaud
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; August 2022

TASTING NOTES

This enticing wine from Sebastopol Hills shows vivid ruby with a hint of blue in the glass and vibrant aromas of cranberry, pomegranate, and spice. A luxurious palate with notes of cherry, raspberry, black tea, and savory herbs builds volume as it introduces structured tannins and bright acidity. Demonstrating both good tension and an elegant balance, the finish is complex with added notes of plum and clay-like minerality.