

PAUL HOBBS

2022 PINOT NOIR FRAENKLE CHESHIER VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Clonal selection: 777, 667
- Rootstock: 101-14
- Plant date: 2001
- Soil: Goldridge fine sandy loam, Pajaro fine sandy loam
- Exposure: 0-3% slope, full exposure
- Trellis and pruning: bilateral cane, vertical shoot positioning (vsp)

GROWING SEASON

The '22 growing season presented a few challenges—especially down the home stretch—reminding us that adversity often breeds surprising insights and learnings that an otherwise relatively benign path cannot. The '22 vintage showcases the resilience of diligently farmed vineyards. Therein lies the silver lining.

Winter and early spring brought little rain and mild temperatures across Napa and Sonoma Counties leading to an early bud break, and a strong, well-defined bloom. During the first week of June, a surprise deluge caused moderate berry shatter (i.e., coulure (fr.) a failure of grapes to develop after flowering) in certain vineyards. That, combined with dry soils, kept yields low and berries small, a promising setup for concentrated color and flavors. A temperate summer helped produce uniform ripening and our reliably cool nights, with diurnal dips into the 50s, kept acidity levels high and bright. Harvest commenced on August 22—our earliest harvest on record—followed swiftly by a final heat spell in early September with temperatures peaking at 117°F at some locations. Early harvests tend to be compressed, and the heat accelerated its pace. Despite the travails, however, the wines are deeply flavored, layered, and complex, with superb balance and energy.

HARVEST

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- Harvest dates: September 23

WINEMAKING

- Hand-sorted while still cold from the field; 15% whole cluster inclusion
- Indigenous yeast fermentation
- 5-day cold soak, 18-day maceration
- Gentle punchdowns
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrel
- Aged 11 months in French oak barrels; 40% new
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; August 2023

TASTING NOTES

In a ruby-red shade both deep and vibrant, this pinot noir delivers tart red fruit aromas true to its cool site in the Russian River Valley. Pomegranate, rhubarb, and Rainier cherry are layered over warm spice and savory black tea. The palate is well-defined and focused, with elegant, fine-grained tannins as the backbone for mineral-rich damp clay and a hint of sea salt. The finish is pure velvet.