PAUL HOBBS

2024 Cuvée Agustina Pinot Noir

Katherine Lindsay Estate, Russian River Valley

Vineyard

- Clonal selections: Calera, Swan, 667, and 115
- Rootstocks: 101-14, 420a, and 3309
- Plant date: 2000
- Soil: Sebastopol sandy loam
- Inclination: rolling terrain with slopes from 2-30%
- Trellis and pruning: bilateral cordon and cane

Growing Season

The 2024 growing season yielded beautifully concentrated, high-quality fruit, and despite a few challenges, will be remembered for its favorable weather patterns and pristine clusters.

Abundant winter rainfall replenished soil moisture and set a strong foundation for the vines. A cool, wet start to the year transitioned into warmer-than-normal temperatures from late March through mid-April, prompting an earlier bud break than in 2023. Bloom unfolded quickly and compactly, and June's temperate, dry conditions supported an excellent fruit set.

While the early season offered promise, vigilance remained essential. A significant heat wave in the first week of July caused minor damage to exposed clusters, reducing shoot tip activity and slowing berry development. August ushered in cooler weather, which provided ideal conditions during the final phase of ripening by enhancing phenolic concentration across the vineyards. Harvest began on August 23 and progressed at an even, unhurried pace until a late-season heat spell from September 30 through October 7 brought the season to a dramatic close.

Overall, 2024 was marked by a dynamic interplay of warm and cool conditions; an ebb and flow that ultimately delivered fruit of notable concentration, balance, and aromatic lift. The resulting wines show exceptional equilibrium, expressiveness, and character.

Harvest

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- August 31-September 17

Winemaking

- Varietal composition: 100% pinot noir
- Hand-sorted while still cold from the field; 17% whole cluster inclusion
- Indigenous yeast fermentation
- 5-day cold soak, 19-day maceration
- Gentle punchdowns
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrel
- Aged 15 months in French oak barrels; 53% new
- Bottled unfined and unfiltered; January 2026

Tasting Notes

Dark ruby with exceptional depth of color. Aromas of dark cherry and cassis are accented by bergamot, anise, iron, and earthy clay nuances. The palate is creamy and energetic, balancing vibrant red fruit with mineral complexity and seamless tannin-acid tension. Fine-grained tannins support a lifted, expressive profile that lingers with notes reminiscent of fresh blueberries.