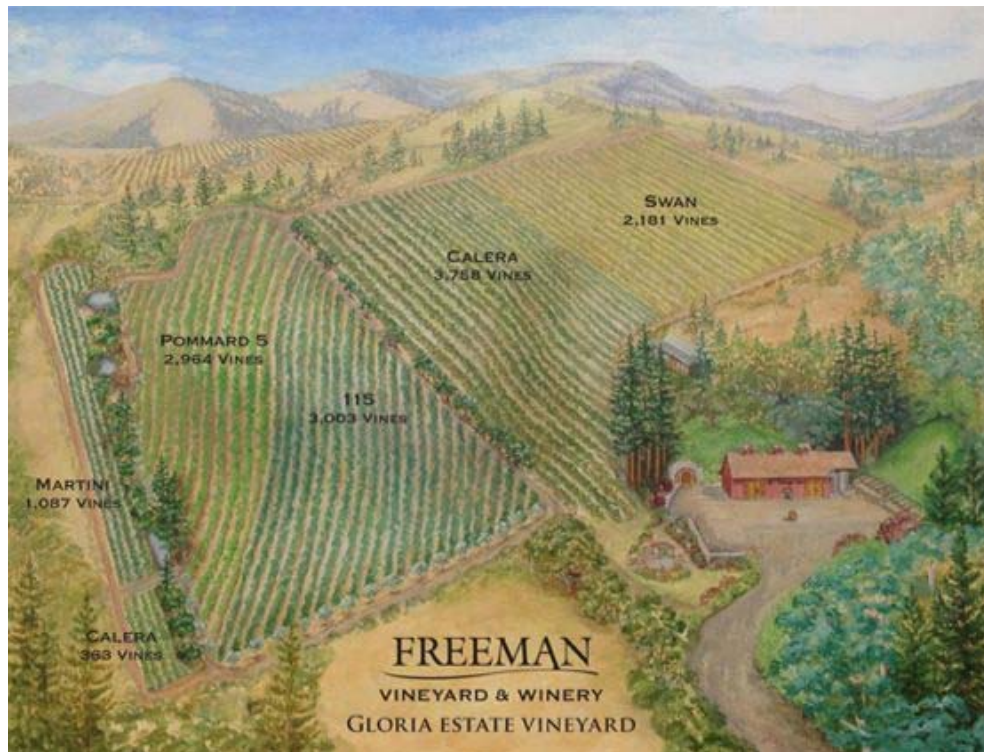


## Freeman Vineyard & Winery

The 2012 vintage marks the release of the first vintage from the Gloria Estate Vineyard, situated on a hillside adjacent the winery. Five clones and/or selections were chosen by winemaker Akiko Freeman including Swan, Calera, Martini, Pommard 5 and 115 to be planted at this cool corner of the Russian River Valley AVA. A sister vineyard, Yu-ki, located in the Sonoma Coast, is now in full production and along with Gloria will be the focal point of Freeman's estate wine program. The first Yu-ki Vineyard Pinot Noir will be released in 2015. Visit the newly expanded website at [www.freemanwinery.com](http://www.freemanwinery.com) to learn more about these two properties.



Freeman Vineyard & Winery was one of six founding members of the West Sonoma Coast Vintners (WSCV), an association of wineries and growers who farm wine grapes along the high-elevation coastline of Sonoma County. Membership in WSCV has grown rapidly as interest in the region has exploded. The organization travels to a few cities each year for a wildly popular series of seminars, tastings and dinners. In 2014, WSCV hosted its West of West (WOW) wine festivals in Chicago (April 9), Sebastopol (August 1-3) and Orange County (November 8). Like Freeman, most WSCV members are small, artisanal producers. For information about the events, visit [www.westsonomacoast.com](http://www.westsonomacoast.com).

The 2012 vintage was the first vintage since 2006 to yield an above average crop after five very small harvests in a row. Bloom occurred under perfect conditions with a large set. Summer was ideal and a perfect fall season allowed

grapes to hang until late September and early October. The resulting quality was excellent in 2012. Total production remains less than 4,500 cases by design. Magnums of all wines are available.

### [2012 Freeman Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)

1,345 cases, \$44. 43% Gloria Estate, 21% Thorn Ridge, 20% Keefer Ranch, 15% Gunsalus. 5-day cold soak, free run sent to barrel, press wine settled and barreled separately. Aged 11 months in 29% new and 71% 1-to-4-year-old French oak barrels. • Moderately light garnet color in the glass. Aromas of Bing cherry, baking spice and vanilla becoming more effusive over time in the glass. Modest concentration of cherry fruit with an echo of oak. Very charming with suave tannins and appealing harmony. A more elegant presentation of Russian River Valley fruit. *Score: 89*

### [2012 Freeman Keefer Ranch Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)

420 cases, \$52. 44% 777, 38% 23, 16% 2A, 2% 115. Aged 11 months in 57% new and 43% 1-to-5-year-old French oak barrels. • Moderately light reddish purple color in the glass. Aromas unravel slowly in the glass revealing spiced cherry, cranberry, forest floor and sweet oak. Admirable finesse and delicacy with lighter weight flavors of dark cherry and raspberry with a hint of spice and an echo of oak. A little more flavor and extract than the Russian River Valley bottling. *Score: 90*

### [2012 Freeman Gloria Estate Russian River Valley Pinot Noir](#)

188 cases, \$54. 47% Calera, 47% 115, 6% Swan. Aged 11 months in 36% new and 64% 1-to-3-year-old French oak barrels. • Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. Uplifting aromas of black cherry glaze, black grapes, Chambord and seasoned oak. Mid weight flavors of black cherry, black raspberry, and a hint of cassis. The most concentrated of the 2012 Freeman Pinot Noirs, showing the exuberance of young vine fruit. The tannins are firm but suede in texture, there is bright underlying acidity and the finish is flush with fruit. Not showing a lot of nuance at this stage, but should improve over time in the bottle. *Score: 92*

### [2012 Freeman Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir](#)

1,221 cases, \$45. Sourced from 8 different vineyards with close to a third from Rayhill Vineyard on Falstaff Road in the Sebastopol Hills region of the Sonoma Coast. Aged 11 months in 36% new and 64% 1 to 4-year-old French oak barrels. • Shy, slowly evolving aromas of black cherry, cardamom spice and toasty oak. Respectable fullness on the palate with flavors of black raspberry, black cherry and spice. The wine has a spark of vibrancy, admirable balance and a pleasingly plush texture. *Score: 90*

### [2012 Freeman Akiko's Cuvée Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir](#)



405 cases, \$62. A barrel selection chosen by Akiko Freeman, Ed Kurtzman and assistant winemaker Mitchell Masotti. A blend of 6 vineyards with the most contributed by Campbell Ranch near Annapolis (clone 777) and the El Coro Vineyard at Keller Estate (Swan and La Tache selection). Aged 11 months in 33% new and 67% 1 to 4-year-old French oak barrels. • Moderately dark reddish purple color in the glass.

The nose was initially closed for business, opening slowly in the glass with swirling over time to reveal wonderful aromas of blackberry jam, black raspberry coulis, rose petal and spice. Delicious essence of fresh dark berries with hints of cola and Hoison sauce. Modest in weight, but highly flavorful, with suave tannins, a satiny smooth texture and an expansive finish. The balance is spot on and the overall impression is magical. You can drink it now for its elegance, but it will be even better after a few years in the cellar. Best Akiko's Cuvée ever. *Score: 95*