



PinotFile

The First Wine Newsletter Exclusively Devoted to Pinotphiles

Freeman Vineyard & Winery, Sebastopol, CA

Ken and Akiko Freeman began their winery in 2001, offering appellation-designated and vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs from Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast vineyards that were crafted by veteran winemaker Ed Kurtzman. Ed eventually passed the winemaking duties to Akiko and assumed a consulting posture. This is one of the most charming wineries in the Russian River Valley to visit, with the winery and barrel caves built into a hillside in western Sebastopol. In 2007, the Freemans added a 4-acre estate vineyard (Gloria) located on a steep hillside behind the winery. The Yu-ki Estate Vineyard on the Sonoma Coast has been planted over the past seven years and produced its first crop in 2014. The wines have been consistently superb and are sold primarily through a mailing list at www.freemanwinery.com.



2015 FREEMAN GLORIA ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR GREEN VALLEY OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

PinotFile Score: 93 (333 cases, \$62)

Five clones (Swan, Calera, Martini, Pommard and Dijon 115) planted in Goldridge soil and sustainably farmed. Vineyard named after Hurricane Gloria that first brought Ken and Akiko Freeman together in 1985. Very low yields in 2015 due to cool weather during flowering in May. Uneven set and tiny clusters only yielded six tons of fruit from 8 acres. 5-day cold soak in open-top fermenters, hand punch downs, free run sent directly to barrel, press wine barreled separately. Aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 12% new. · Moderately dark reddish purple color in the glass. A nose with purpose, that opens nicely with swirling, revealing aromas of dark raspberry, spice and sous-bois. Very charming and silky in the mouth with vivid flavors of black cherry and purple berry fruits underlain with a thread of savory herbs. Expansive and layered in the mouth, with nice harmony and a gentle demeanor. Much better when tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle.



2014 FREEMAN SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR

PinotFile Score: 90 (1,002 cases, \$45)

The largest contribution to this wine came from Rayhill Vineyard (115 and 777), with small amounts of grapes from Campbell Ranch (777), and the very young Yu-ki Estate Vineyard located just five miles from the Pacific Ocean at 1,000 feet elevation (114, 667, “828,” 2A and Mariafeld). 5-day cold soak in open-top fermenters, hand punch downs, free run juice directly to barrel, press wine barreled separately. Aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 22% new. Light cherry red color in the glass. Aromas of black cherry, blueberry, Damsel plum and amphora lead to mid weight flavors of earthy cherry that make an impression. A bit of nutty oak shadows the fruit, the tannins are chalky and supportive, and the finish ends with appealing savory and juicy fruit notes.