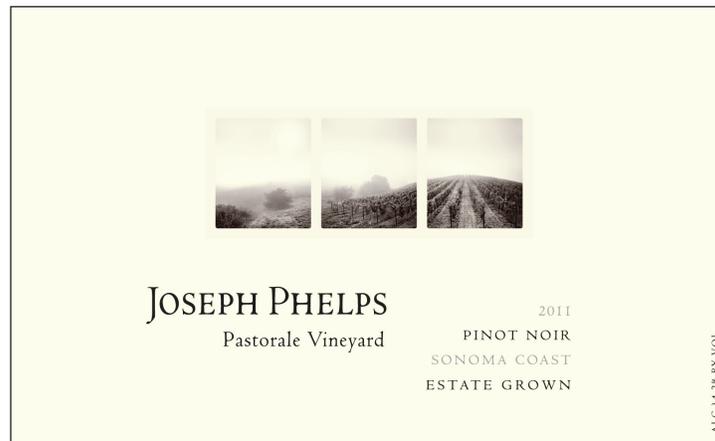


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Pinot Noir, Pastorale Vineyard, Sonoma Coast 2011

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** September 20 and 21, 2011.

**Blend:** 100% estate-grown Pinot Noir from our Pastorale Vineyard.

**Aging:** 13 months in 60% new and 40% two- to three-year-old French oak barrels before bottling in February, 2013.

**Winemaking Notes:** This special bottling from a tightly spaced sloping section of the Pastorale Vineyard showcases the distinct characteristics of the Freestone growing region. The Pinot Noir blocks are a mix of Calera and clone 777. Half of the fruit was hand-selected and whole cluster fermented in open-top oak tanks with snipped stems and the remaining half was whole berry fermented in stainless steel tanks. Daily punch downs were performed until the desired taste and texture was achieved in the wines.

Opening aromas of blackberry, blueberry, dried herbs and sweet tangerine peel give this Pinot Noir a distinctive Freestone characteristic. Lush and round with silky texture and considerable weight, an impressive effort boasting dark fruit, plum and white pepper with hints of mushroom and dark chocolate throughout to the long finish.

**Growing Season:** The 2011 growing season was marked by cool weather and rain that lasted until June. Bud break and bloom were later than usual, but by the summer months, moderate temperatures and afternoon sunshine kicked the growing season into gear. A warming trend in September helped the grapes ripen to maturity.

The 2011 Pinot Noir growing season was slow and cool, producing exceptional fruit with uniform sugar and acid levels, making for ideal natural winemaking conditions. The finished wines are nicely balanced and concentrated, with a lingering Freestone spice element.

**Review:** 93 Points, "Sexy nose combines crushed cherry, cranberry, brown spices and earthy undertones, plus some smoky oak. Finishes dry and broad, with terrific peppery persistence." -*Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May/June 2013*