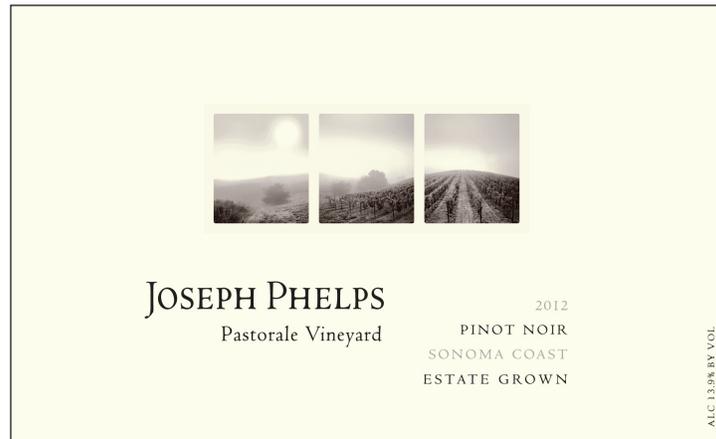


JOSEPH PHELPS



Joseph Phelps Pinot Noir, Pastorale Vineyard, Sonoma Coast 2012

Winemaking Data

Harvest Dates: September 21 and 27, 2012.

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

Aging: 14 months in 55% new and 45% two- to three-year-old French oak barrels before bottling.

Winemaking Notes: This special bottling from our Pastorale Vineyard comes from three specific blocks along a tightly spaced, sloping hillside section of the vineyard planted to a mixture of Calera and clone 777. After picking, fruit was hand sorted in order to choose the best whole clusters for fermentation. During fermentation, tanks were fermented with 30% whole clusters for added spice, texture and tannin structure. One-third of the blend was fermented in oak open top fermenters, lending a rounder mouthfeel to the finished wine. Daily punch downs were performed in each tank until the desired taste and texture was achieved. In 2012, small clusters led to great flavor and color development during fermentation resulting in balanced wines with layer upon layer of fruit and spice.

A lush, aromatic offering with bright cherry, cranberry, dried herbs, fragrant violet and fresh earth envelope the senses. With a silky smooth entry, black cherry and Freestone spice dominate this elegantly structured wine brimming with black tea, white pepper and wild mushroom notes. Richly textured with refined tannins and nice acidity that carry through to a lingering finish filled with layers of sweet blackberry.

Growing Season: The 2012 Sonoma Coast growing season began with normal winter and early spring rains. The 2012 weather pattern more closely aligned with the 2008 growing season, with bud break and veraison occurring earlier than in 2010 and 2011. Coastal morning fog gave way to warm afternoon sunshine during the important summer months for a long, moderate growing season. Grapes were given ample time for even, full maturity with uniform sugar and acid levels.

2012 produced exceptional quality Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from our estate vineyards in Freestone. The Pinot Noirs are balanced and concentrated with luscious fruit elements.

Review: 93 Points, "Its dense ruby hue is followed by a beautiful floral element. Readers will adore the black cherry, plum, clove-infused fruit and relatively full-bodied texture." -R.P., *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, Dec. 2014