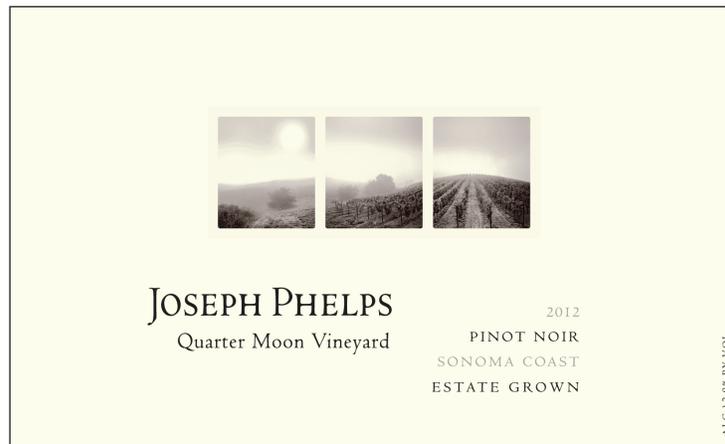


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Pinot Noir, Quarter Moon Vineyard, Sonoma Coast 2012

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** September 15, 24 and 26, 2012.

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

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

**Winemaking Notes:** This special Quarter Moon Vineyard Pinot Noir bottling was created from select blocks within the higher elevation sections of the vineyard, planted to a mixture of Calera and clones 90 and 96, with a smattering of clones 459 and 777. Fruit was hand sorted in order to choose the best whole clusters for fermentation. Tanks were fermented with 26% whole clusters for more spice, texture and tannin structure. 21% of the blend was fermented in oak open top fermenters, lending a rich, round mouthfeel to the finished wine. Daily punch downs were performed until the desired taste and texture was achieved in each tank. Small clusters from this vintage led to great flavor and color development during fermentation creating balanced wines with layers of fruit and spice.

This wine boasts a fragrant bouquet of blackberry, savory dried herbs, black currants and violets with hints of smoked meat, clove and distinctive Freestone spice. Boldly structured with pleasing acidity, it is overflowing with ripe black cherry, dark plum, licorice and black pepper. A wine of great depth and purity filled with expressive fruit character and a rich, lingering finish.

**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:** 91+ Points, "Earthy and ruby-colored as well as crisp and fresh is the 2012 Pinot Noir Quarter Moon Vineyard. With abundant notes of blackberries and raspberries intermixed with a notion of wet pebbles that gives the wine a striking minerality..." -R.P., Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*, Dec. 30, 2014