



ALYSIAN

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Floodgate Vineyard is located in the heart of Russian River Valley's most coveted Pinot Noir sub appellation known as the Middle Reach. It is here where the region's most prestigious vineyards reside, and where the most highly acclaimed producers source their fruit. This is one of our estate properties, and the future home of our new production facility. The West Block (planted in 1971) is one of the oldest known plantings of Pinot noir in the Russian River Valley. Though producing less than one ton per acre, winemaker Gary Farrell insists the vineyard be preserved ... not only for its historical significance, but the astounding quality and impeccable structure of wines produced from these old vines.

VINTAGE SUMMARY

2008 was a tremendous vintage for producers favoring finesse and elegance in their wines. As you may recall, 2007 provided very bright, but highly extracted, dense wines from our region. While many enjoy this style, it is not the style of winemaking I have embraced during my career. Rather, I prefer more subtlety in my wines; with greater focus on purity of fruit, acute balance and elegance than density or power. Thankfully, 2008 provided ideal fruit composition for crafting wines of this style.

WINEMAKER NOTES

This youthful wine proves that abundance and concentration is achievable, without the excessive weight, ripeness and alcohol found in so many Pinot Noirs today. At Alysian, generous acidity and structural integrity is our first and foremost requirement; and indeed necessary in the crafting of great wines. Alluring aromas of violet, fresh blackberry and stone fruits lead to an array of wild berries, fresh plum and black-pepper spice on the palate. Those flavors expand and become exotic with time in the glass, as hints of enriching oak and minerality surface in the many waves of flavor complexity. Refreshing vibrancy and supportive fine-grain tannins add further credibility and appeal to this wildly appealing wine. Though enjoyable now for its adolescent charms, this is a strong candidate for careful, long-term cellaring.

Gary Farrell, winemaker

2008

PINOT NOIR FLOODGATE VINEYARD WEST BLOCK

VINEYARDS AND CLONES

Floodgate Vineyard - West Block

Martini clone

HARVEST INFORMATION

Harvest date: 9/5

Hand harvested at night under lights

Hand sorted in vineyard

Average brix: 24.5 degrees

GRAPE PROCESSING

Cold fruit processed early AM

Hand sorted prior to stem removal

Hand sorted after stem removal

FERMENTATION

Tanks: Small open tops

Cold soak: 4 days

Yeast: Combination wild and cultured

Mixing: 3 manual punch downs daily

Duration: 11 days

BARREL PROGRAM

100% French oak

Francois Freres, Rousseau

40% new

ML fermentation in barrel

13 months in barrel

FINISHED WINE

Alcohol: 14.4% by volume

Titrateable acidity: 6.9 gm/L

pH: 3.46

Bottling date: Nov. 24, 2009

Production: 201 cases (9 liter equivalent)

