



Martin Ray Winery
1998 Pinot Noir La Montaña
Sonoma County



Technical Notes
Varietal: 93% Pinot Noir
7% Dolcetto
Harvested: Oct. 10 - 25, 1998
Brix at Harvest: ° 23.6
Alcohol: 13.5%
Total Acidity: 72
pH: 3.64
Quantity Produced: 1,536 Cases

“Wine lights a fire in the soul” – Martin Ray

The Vineyards

Our first Sonoma County Pinot Noir is chosen from grapes grown in three distinct vineyard regions. The celebrated Russian River Valley contributes 56% of the blend. For superior structure and balance, 18% of the grapes are harvested from van der Kamp Vineyards, situated at 1800 feet on Sonoma Mountain. Mendocino's cool Redwood Valley adds beautiful berry characteristics and makes up the remaining 25% of the balance.

Vintage Notes

1998 had a very late start with weather remaining cool through April and May creating delicate growth and late bloom. With a cooler than normal summer, many vineyards were harvested later than usual. This longer “hang-time” allowed the grapes to develop additional depth and complexity.

Winemaker Notes

I have taken a traditional Burgundian, intuitive approach to both the winemaking and style of the Martin Ray La Montana Pinot Noir. The key to this “intuitive” approach is understanding when to step back. The goal is to allow the wine to develop its own depth and distinctive characteristics. The 1998 Pinot Noir has a brilliant garnet color. The palate is full with cranberry and Bing cherry; elegantly balanced with vanilla and herb tea flavors. The mouth boasts generous fruit, fused with smooth but bright flavors on the finish. Our Pinot Noirs are made to age, and will reward the patient collector.