



Cherry Pie

Original oil on canvas by TR Colletta

Cherry Pie

PINOT NOIR

Stanly Ranch ~ 2011 ~ Napa Valley

Vineyard Notes:

Viticulture at Stanly Ranch in Carneros began in the 1880's but fell off during prohibition. Stanly Ranch was first planted to Pinot Noir in the 1940s, when a clonal trial proved the ranch's well-drained clay-loam soils and rolling hills ideal for growing the finicky varietal. The clones and blocks have been significantly refined over the years, and Stanly Ranch is now one of the most sought-after vineyards for Pinot Noir in California.

Climate:

The Carneros AVA straddles the southern parts of Napa and Sonoma Counties. It is the coolest wine region in Napa, with fog rolling in from San Pablo Bay at night, then peeling back late in the day to expose the grapes to the sun. Stanly Ranch is on the Napa side of Carneros and has myriad microclimate throughout its rolling hills, making for significant differences in terroir in each block of the vineyard. The Bay has a significant influence, the lower areas being the first to be covered with fog and the last to emerge while the hills remain in the sun the longest and see it earliest in the morning. Cherry Pie single vineyard Pinot Noir is from the Home Hill of Stanly Ranch.

Winemaking Notes

2011 was a tricky harvest, cool, damp weather led to mold and rot with Pinot Noir all over the region. We spent an inordinate amount of resources going through the vineyard blocks each day to carefully remove any damaged clusters before mold could spread. The work paid off. Sun and dry air came in October and our result is incredible depth and richness. We carefully chose the blocks to ferment in micro-lots to isolate the individual flavors and aromas. This wine was mainly fermented in 500 liter French oak puncheons with hand punch downs. A portion was aged in stainless and the balance (majority) was aged in the same puncheons the wine was fermented in that very year. The wine was never racked or filtered, and rested on gross lees the entire aging period.

Experience:

The 2011 Cherry Pie Pinot Noir is deep and concentrated. It shows weighty textural richness in its sweet, juicy red cherries, mint, cinnamon and cloves. The 2011 Cherry Pie lives up to its name, although this year leans more toward dark Bing cherries; it has tons of energy and minerality to support the dense fruit. Sweet floral notes add lift on the finish. The 2011 is a gorgeous, exuberant Cherry Pie with great balance and overall harmony.

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Appellation: 100% Carneros, Napa Valley

Cooperage: 100% French Oak, 30% New

Alcohol: 14.5%

For sales and distribution information visit www.cherrypiewines.com