

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



1998 Pinot Noir

- Vintage:** 1998 was a challenging year in the vineyards. El Niño produced cold and wet springtime conditions, which affected berry set and reduced yields. Continued cool weather throughout the growing season delayed ripening and caused a late harvest. However, the extremely long "hang time" resulted in wines with complex aromas, intense flavors, and excellent acidity.
- Vineyard:** Four separate clonal selections of Pinot Noir grow on the Truchard Estate Vineyard. Two "Martini" clones, the "Pommard" clone - a recent import from France, and the "Swan" clone. Each selection provides a unique element of aromatic fruit, spice, and texture to the blend. The vines range from 8 - 14 years in age. They are planted in several select sites that take full advantage of the thin soils, rolling hills, and cooler temperatures - factors which combine to make the Carneros region ideal for producing Pinot Noir.
- Harvest:** September 19 - October 7 • 24.1 °Brix • 3.50 pH • 6.9 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed into open top fermenters with approximately 20% whole berries. Each lot was inoculated with Assmannhausen yeast, after "cold soaking" for up to 3 days. Fermentations were punched down three times daily, with the temperature peaking at 92° F. After 7 - 12 days of maceration, the lot were pressed, settled in tanks for 24 hours, then put to barrel. This wine was aged for 10 months in French oak (33% new), and bottled in August of 1999. It is ready for immediate drinking, but will reward careful cellaring for the next 7 - 10 years.
- Wine Analysis:** 14.1 % alcohol • 3.67 pH • 5.7 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes:** Vibrant aromas of strawberry and smoky plum; highlighted with hint of orange blossom, anise, and sweet tobacco. The mouth is round and silky - ripe plum, black cherry, and sweet vanilla; followed by cranberry tea, and toasted oak. Balanced acidity and delicate tannins focus these flavors and provide a long spicy finish.
- Release date:** June 1, 2000
- Cases Produced:** 1488 cases (750ml bottles)/247 cases (375ml bottles)
- Bottle Price:** \$30.00

3234 OLD SONOMA ROAD NAPA, CA 94559
TEL 707-253-7153 707-252-8864 FAX 707-253-7234