

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS



THE PERFECT CIRCLE PINOT NOIRS

THREE AMIGOS VINEYARD • VANDAL VINEYARD • FOUR VINEYARDS
LOS CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, 2010



Three Amigos Vineyard: From the coolest and last vineyard harvested, The Three Amigos is the most expressive of the Perfect Circle Pinot Noirs. The impression is of macerated raspberries and cherries with subtle notes of bramble and tea. A nice crispness with understated oak guarantees it will make for a friendly dinner companion. This wine will only get better as it swirls in the glass.

Vandal Vineyard: The hillside Vandal Vineyard in North Carneros, with its red volcanic soil, creates darker complected fruit than the Three Amigos Vineyard to the south with aromas and flavors of red plum, a touch of Jolly Rancher, and cinnamon with a peat-like undercurrent. It leaves a rich impression yet finishes brightly.

Four Vineyards: A lot by lot selection from RSV's four organically farmed vineyards on the Napa side of the Carneros. The wine has an ethereal, elegant quality with a warm, inviting nature and a nice balance of fruit, spice, mineral and earth, for a particularly satisfying wine.

A PERFECT CIRCLE

Every vineyard and every growing season creates a wine with a personality born of the elements. Of all grape varieties, Pinot Noir is a particularly impressionable and expressive variety whose character is sculpted by heat summation, modified by weather anomalies, and defined by timing to make Pinot Noir the ideal conduit for channeling the essence of vineyard and vintage into a bottle. RSV's Perfect Circle Pinot Noirs are a culmination of over twenty-five years of working with the rhythms of nature, learning the eccentricities of the grape and discovering how the two interact with place.

Character begins and ends with the soil. The Perfect Circle is RSV's philosophy of working with nature to close the loop, going beyond the quick fix, to find natural, holistic methods that sever dependency on, and the quick fix mentality of, chemical farming. Conventional farming is more like mining whereas organic, and particularly Biodynamic, farming mimics nature's processes to replenish the soil through natural methods. What comes out, must go back in. This is the Perfect Circle.

The Perfect Circle is also a non-profit arm of the Robert Sinskey Foundation designed to improve our understanding of natural processes and give back to the land through grants and education. For more information, visit robertsinskey.com.



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THE PERFECT CIRCLE...

by Rob Sinskey

Birds, Bees and Pinot Noir!

The diving pelican elicited shrieks of joy as it crashed into the pacific. The large, pre-historic looking bird was a rarity in the 60's and a sighting was almost as thrilling as witnessing its dive-bomb aerobatics.

More than fifty years ago, the big bird was near extinction... decimated by the genius of our species. We humans are good at problem solving, probably too good. We have a myopic tendency to immerse ourselves in finding a solution to a singular problem before understanding how that might impact other living things.

The chain of events began with a noble purpose - to eradicate the malaria carrying mosquito and the typhus spreading louse. Typically, the "humanitarian" purpose was a means to protect our WWII era troops by protecting the local population. DDT was the solution and it was sprayed everywhere the insects lived. It was so effective that the chemist who recognized its insecticidal use was awarded a Nobel prize and the World Health Organization deployed it in its chemical arsenal. On the home front, it became so commonplace that it could be found on most farms, in our beds, and under the kitchen sink.

For a while, life was great. The good guys won the war, food became plentiful and cheap, malaria and typhus deaths dropped precipitously. Then, seemingly unrelated to all this, scientists began noticing that the pelican, osprey, peregrine falcon, and, the symbol of America itself, the bald eagle, were all in serious decline... but there were no bodies to reveal cause and effect.

As DDT increased in popularity, it found its way to the oceans, entered the food chain and, since it was fat soluble, persisted. It worked its way up the chain, concentrating, until it reached the predatory birds at the top. Instead of killing the birds outright, it thinned their eggshells so the incubating bird crushed its offspring under its own weight.

However, this tragedy didn't enter the public consciousness until Rachel Carson's seminal book "Silent Spring." Carson also indicted DDT as a carcinogen. As a result, it was eventually banned for use in the United States - though, unbelievably, it is still in use in North Korea and India.

Fortunately, the use of DDT was curtailed in time for the birds to return from the brink, but this episode stands as a reminder that we don't have all the answers.

We forget that everything is interrelated, how complicated and unpredictable natural systems are. We compartmentalize, using chemicals in our backyard to kill what ails our ornamentals, destroy pesky weeds, or kill those ants, without a thought to the larger ecosystem. It is not so much this spot use, but rather the accumulated effect these chemicals have on the environment as they run off into storm drains, mix into a toxic slurry and enter the food chain... never mind the accumulated effect these chemicals have on you and your family. You have little control over your exposure outside the home, but you do have a choice in what you purchase and use.

Recently, certain pesticides have been indicated in the mass collapse of bee colonies. The debate still rages as to the exact cause. There is evidence that it is a fungal disease, but it is believed that exposure to insecticides weakens the bee's immune system, allowing the fungus to rage unchecked. If the bees don't survive, the use of chemicals in our food supply will be a false economy.

Why write this in what should be a short marketing piece for wine? For me, it's never been about just selling something... I feel as a business owner I should bear more responsibility than that. Maybe the real products I am selling are ideas... or thoughts that happen to taste good. I would like to believe we are offering guilt-free hedonism - because if something is going to be luxurious, it should do no harm.

