

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

VANDAL VINEYARD, LOS CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, 2012

A PERFECT CIRCLE PINOT NOIR



- CCOF Certified Organic Vineyards
- RSV owns and farms all vineyards
- No purchased fruit, RSV planted every vine
- 100% Pinot Noir
- From the hillside Vandal Vineyard in northern Carneros
- Heirloom selections and French clones
- Barrel aged 12 months
- 100% French oak barrels, 30% new

WINE GROWING NOTES

Welling up out of the valley into the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountain range, RSV's organically farmed Vandal Vineyard is a gem of a property. The rolling hills provide beautiful northeast exposure to the morning sun with shade in the late afternoon. Ideal for a long growing season and fully developed flavor.

RSV's Carneros Estate vineyards are picked in the cool of night and delivered to the cellar door before the sun rises for a crack-of-dawn crush. The grapes are destemmed and each lot is fermented separately. Some see open-box fermenters and others open-top stainless fermenters. All of the lots kick off fermentation on native yeast and see a combination of punch down and/or cap irrigation.

The wine is then aged in 100% French Oak barrels (of which about 30% are new) for one year in the caves before bottling and continued cellar aging before release.

WINE TASTING NOTES

The 2012 is a swan song... at least for the next few vintages until a block of the vineyard is replanted and has time to grow up the stake and produce quality fruit. This vintage is softer compared to the 2011 vintage and is enjoyable younger. The wine exhibits an intriguing spiciness of clove and cinnamon with a core of sun dried cherry or macerated plum and a touch of citrus zest. It is a delicious wine and a fine dinner companion.

A PERFECT CIRCLE

An outreach program of RSV through the Robert M. Sinskey Foundation donates a percentage of the profits from sales of this wine to assist those who give back to the land through sustainable agricultural education, heirloom food and ways preservation and the development of renewable farm energy.

FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.

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A Cycle of Death and Renewal!

The anti-hero of my teen years killed Captain Kirk - and it wasn't his most significant role. In his youth, he was the ultimate everyman rebel in "If...", the prescient 60's film about a bullied British school boy who stages an armed revolt against the establishment. Then, in the early '70's, he played the sociopathic leader of a violent gang of "droogs" in Clockwork Orange - who is arrested and "cured" only to be released into a society that relishes victimizing their now defenseless attacker. As iconic as these roles were, it's ironic that Malcolm McDowell is probably best known as the man who killed Captain Kirk in "Star Trek Generations" - serving as the vehicle to finally hand the torch to the "new" Captain. Though it was a painful transition to some, it had to be done. Kirk was getting old and paunchy, no longer convincingly seducing the gorgeous alien or throwing an effective right hook.

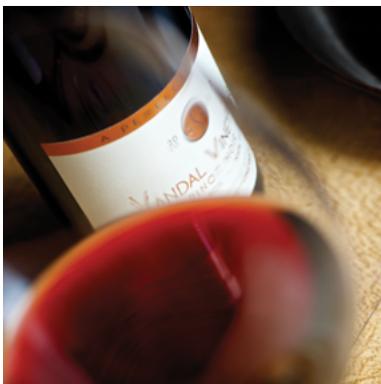
Now, we are killing off selected blocks of our Pinot Noir before the fruit gets paunchy and can no longer seduce... at least until we can pass the torch to the next generation. These just might be the last two releases of Capa and Vandal Pinots for awhile.

A healthy vine has an effective life span. It possesses an exuberance of youth that matures into stable predictability at about age ten, hits its stride and gains complexity into the 20's and then, when wisest, around 25 years old, begins to lose productivity. The Capa and Vandal Vineyards were planted in the late eighties and early nineties to a mix of French clones and heirloom massal selections. They've served us well but certain blocks, though producing incredibly complex fruit, are no longer achieving viable yields. It is time for a generational revolution.

The Capa vineyard is a sentimental favorite, even if a royal pain in some years. It is my home and was named after my loyal Border Collie who, after 16 years, rests amongst the trees on the hillside. The vineyard has four selections of Pinot Noir: two French Clones, Dijon and Pommard, and two massal heirlooms that we refer to as the C and H selections. When young, this vineyard produced big jammy Pinot Noir but, as we learned its eccentricities and as the vines lost some vitality with age, the wines became more complex. However, it gets to a point that no matter how good the fruit is, if there isn't enough to support the cost and effort to farm it, we need to move on. The two blocks of C and H selections are slated for removal this year.

The Vandal Vineyard is a diverse vineyard with not only Pinot Noir, but Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel. However, the Pinot Noir has always been special here with massal cuttings from our first plantings, known as the "S" selection, as well as the Pommard clone. The earthy, cranberry like "S" selection Pinot combined with the plum-like character of the Pommard created some immediately likable, yet incredibly complex Pinot that aged gracefully, but like the heirloom blocks from Capa, the "S" selection is ready for retirement. It's time for the torch to be passed to the next generation.

But all is not lost. Like a good sci-fi story, we've come up with an improbable solution to connect the past with the future. A few years ago, we took cuttings from the heirloom "S" selection of Pinot Noir and began the process of microshoot tip culturing to create our very own disease-free "Sinskey" clone of Pinot Noir... a clone we feel ideally suited to become the next generation of elegant, balanced Carneros Pinot Noir.



****The Capa Vineyard Pinot Noir is only produced in cooler vintages and available exclusively through the RSV tasting room.***