

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

THE PERFECT CIRCLE PINOT NOIRS

THREE AMIGOS VINEYARD • VANDAL VINEYARD • FOUR VINEYARDS

LOS CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, 2008



- CCOF Certified Organic Vineyards
- Demeter Certified Biodynamic Vineyards
- RSV owns and farms all vineyards
- No purchased fruit, RSV planted every vine
- 100% Pinot Noir
- Lot by lot selection for structure and expression
- Heirloom selections and French clones
- 100% French oak barrels, 40% new for 11-14 months

WINEGROWING NOTES

If anything worth doing is challenging, then the 2008 vintage was particularly worthwhile. The reservoirs on the vineyards filled up a bit more than the previous winter, but 2008 was the second year of drought. Then came the frosts. Debby Zygielbaum, vineyard manager, lost a lot of sleep to frost alarms in the wee hours. Debby and her crew's efforts minimized the damage, but some crop was lost. Drought and frost contributed to low yields, the sort that make the accountant nervous, though nature makes recompense with high quality and concentration.

Though wildfires raged up and down the North Coast, tainting some California wine regions, RSV's Carneros Vineyards were never at risk. Onshore winds from the San Pablo Bay pushed the threat of smoke taint out of the area; however it did filter the light a bit and made for slower sugar development in the crop - but that's a good thing. The fires died down about

mid-summer and July and early August were unusually mild, allowing for evenly paced fruit development. The heat arrived in the latter half of August, pushing sugars aggressively, but then it quickly subsided, allowing for a relatively slow paced harvest of fruit with beautiful balance of sugars, ripe tannins and acidity. Small clusters, tiny berries and commensurately high skin-to-juice ratios produced intense and concentrated wines.

Jeff Virnig, RSV's winemaker for over two decades, said tannin management was foremost on his mind, so the cellar crew de-stemmed the bunches and left the rollers open wide on the crusher to encourage a good population of whole berries in the tanks. These whole berries extend the fermentation process, aerate the ferment, minimize harsh tannins, and emphasize berry character. Pressed off after fermentation, the wine rested in 40% new French oak barrels for about 11-14 months before bottling.

FINE WINES FROM ORGANIC VINES

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THREE AMIGOS VINEYARD

Influenced by its proximity to the San Pablo Bay, the Three Amigos Vineyard is one of RSV's coolest vineyards. As a result, its wines harbor a bright, zingy, berry-fruit character of raspberries and cranberries. It is not a simple, one-trick pony. This vineyard, planted by RSV over 28 years ago with heirloom selections and French clones, creates a wine with layers of complexity that many consider to be the most expressive Pinot Noir produced by RSV.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of back fruit, strawberry, and herbs presage rich flavors of black cherry, more strawberry, clove, subtle olive and earth. Silken texture carries the flavors beautifully, and the bright fresh cut of the wine keeps one coming back for more refreshment.

Barrels Produced: 14

TA: 6.1 g/l PH: 3.53 Alc: 14.2%



VANDAL VINEYARD

RSV selected five lots from the Vandal Vineyard that come together to express the voice of this unique site. The Vandal Vineyard straddles a ridge of land that rises out of lower Carneros to join the shoulder of Mt. Veeder. Removed a bit from the Bay, there's slightly more sunshine than lower Carneros, and soils are better drained as well.

TASTING NOTES

Beguiling aromas of woody undergrowth and dark fruit demand further, less ethereal inspection. Upon a sip, the wine is bright and focused, but keeps to the darker side of fruit, with black cherry, plum notes, tea, and that persistent earthiness that good Pinot Noir must have. As usual, Vandal yields fruit with more tannin than the other vineyards, and this is in evidence here. The tannins weave a sensual texture for the flavors to color, and makes this Pinot Noir a good friend of grilled meats, amongst others.

Barrels Produced: 12

TA: 6.2 g/l PH: 3.48 Alc: 13.8%



FOUR VINEYARDS

The Four Vineyards Pinot Noir is an expression of all that the Carneros region has to offer. Selected from individual blocks of RSV's Carneros vineyards, the wine benefits from several diverse sites ranging from the southernmost coolest vineyard with heavier clay soils, to the northernmost hilly reaches that are slightly warmer, wind protected and with well-drained, volcanic soils. Every block receives individual attention in vineyard and cellar, aiming to reveal its full potential. The Four Vineyards approach in making Pinot Noir assures that each block can be individually harvested at its peak, with optimally ripe fruit, good natural acidity, fully developed tannin and mature fruit, herb and spice flavor. Then, after the individual blocks ferment and barrel age separately for nearly a year, the most complimentary of these are blended to create the "Four Vineyards" Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is all class and confidence. It does not flaunt or strut, but instead invites you in to study its elegance. Classic Pinot Noir aromas emerge, redolent of red cherries, earth, tea and rose. It's high-toned on the palate, with deep, almost nervous, energy that recalls a thoroughbred about to run. Everything is in its place, beautifully integrated, finding the sweet spot to balance between power, elegant structure, texture and fruit. This wine can definitely sustain its end of a long-term relationship. Put some down and watch this one develop.

Barrels Produced: 14

TA: 6.2 g/l PH: 3.53 Alc: 14.1%

THE PERFECT CIRCLE

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.

Every vineyard and every growing season creates a wine with a personality born of the elements. Pinot Noir, in particular, is an impressionable, expressive variety. The character of the grape is sculpted by heat summation, modified by weather anomalies and defined by timing. It's how minutiae elucidates character that makes Pinot Noir the ideal conduit for capturing the essence of vineyard and vintage in a bottle.

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