

**AVA**

Russian River Valley

HARVEST DATE

9-28-2019

FINISHED PH

3.44

FINISHED TA

6.31

ALCOHOL

14.4

OAK PROGRAM

All French or Hungarian, 30%
New, 30% Once Filled Balance
Neutral

CASES PRODUCED

200



Calstar Cellars

2019 Pinot Noir

Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

Appellation Profile

The Russian River Valley remains a benchmark for cool-climate Pinot Noir. Daily marine fog and temperate afternoons slow ripening, preserving bright acidity and layered aromatics from the Mendocino border to the ocean's edge. Sheltered vineyard sites and well-drained soils foster even fruit development, yielding Pinot Noir with purity of fruit, supple texture, and an elegant, age-worthy frame.

Winemaker's Notes

The 2019 season began with abundant winter moisture and a cool, measured spring, setting up an even fruit set and long, temperate summer. Classic Russian River fog tempered the warmth, extending hang time and allowing the fruit to reach full flavor maturity without sacrificing freshness. Harvest proceeded at an unhurried pace, cluster by cluster, with lots brought in at ideal ripeness for balance and finesse.

In the glass, a medium ruby-violet hue hints at the wine's depth. The nose is generous yet focused, offering ripe red and dark fruits — Bing cherry, black raspberry, and boysenberry — that are lifted by notes of vanillin, baking spice, and a gentle toast from restrained oak. Subtler accents of cola, rose petal, and a touch of cocoa emerge with air, layering complexity over the fruit core.

The palate is silken and precise. Juicy red cherry and blackberry compote glide across a spine of bright acidity, while fine-grained tannins add shape and drive. Mid-palate nuances of black tea, clove, and cacao nib build savory dimension, leading to a long, resonant finish where cherry, spice, and a faint whisper of toast linger. It is a natural fit for holiday tables — roast poultry, glazed ham, mushroom-herb stuffing, and winter greens.

Delicious now, this Pinot Noir will continue to gain secondary complexity, featuring notes of dried mushroom, forest floor, and sweet tobacco, over the next 10+ years from the vintage date. A brief decant enhances aromatic detail and texture.

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