



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

Our Carneros Pinot Noir comes entirely from the Toyon Vineyard, located in the Napa side of Carneros. This vineyard was originally planted for us in 1998 with cuttings tracing back to the Swan estate in Sonoma County and Dijon 115 - followed by cuttings from Ed Penhoet's vineyard in Carmel Valley. Ed's selection from River Selection is a story into itself (ask us sometime!), and is sometimes referred as "Pisoni Clone" since Gary Pisoni took cuttings from the vineyard in the early '80s.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

Timing is everything in life as well as in the vineyard. 2014 marked another year of record-breaking drought, however the year began with adequate soil moisture supported by well-timed rains resulting in an overall pleasant growing season. Warm and moderate weather with plenty of sun ripened grapes completely and made this an early budding and early harvesting vintage. Since everything was basically ready to pick at the same time, this made for an extremely intense harvest of long hours to ensure all the grapes received the attention they needed. Similar to the last two vintages, this year gave us an average sized crop with this one yielding soft, hedonistic wines that showed delicious fruit very early on – even in the barrel far before bottling!

ABOUT THE WINE...

We separated the entire lot into one ton, open-top fermenters, employing traditional punch-downs by hand in order to achieve optimal extraction. About 5% of the fruit was fermented as whole clusters. The wine was aged in an array of French cooperage, nearly half new, and gently racked once prior to bottling. Grapes, must, and wines were moved using gravity through to the barrel and using inert gas through racking and bottling. 724 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

An intense spice filled nose gives way to delicious black raspberry and black cherry. The luxurious palate is loaded with dark berries and combines seamlessly with hints of dark chocolate, anise, and Brazil nut. The palate is full of textural, mouth-coating tannins balanced with a bright acidity. The chewy tannins, earthy spices and minerality complement the fruit and floral notes signature to this wine. Patience and ability to resist its youthful hedonism will pay off over the next few years as the palate continues to develop in opulence revealing even darker layers and more earth notes.