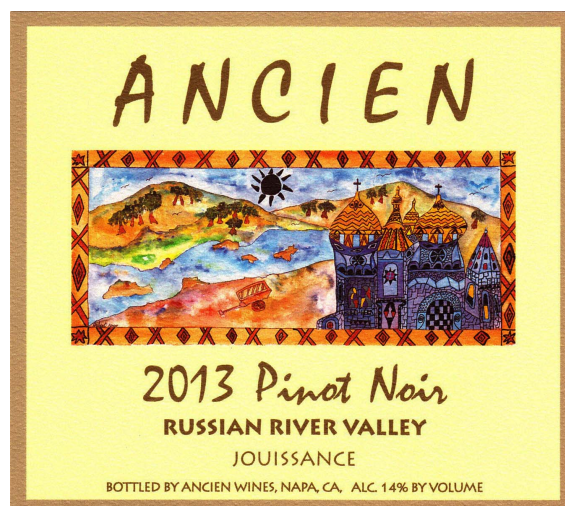




Ancien Wines



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

Gilbert Perez's two acre vineyard in the southwestern corner of the appellation, only nominally protected by the coastal hills and open to the maritime influence of the Pacific Ocean, is the single source for these grapes. The soils here are sandy loam and very well drained, typical for the Russian River Valley. The cooler sections of Russian River, near Sebastopol, are known for producing explosive and aromatic fruit flavors balanced with acidity and earthy aromas. All seventeen rows are planted with Dijon 115 clones, which tend to add perfumed aromas and light spice notes to the lush fruitiness obtained from the soils.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

2013 was a season of generous weather. Adequate winter rain and soil moisture ensured for a nice start to the growing season devoid of early frost. Ideal bloom conditions provided for a uniform fruit set. A summer of consistent temperatures without notable extremes kept the vines functioning optimally without undue stress. Late season warmth ensured nice ripe tannin and color development. In summary, this was a wonderfully cooperative vintage.

ABOUT THE WINE...

We fermented in our one ton, open-top tanks, layering the bottom 25% of each tank with whole clusters of fruit, adding structure and spice notes to the back palate and balancing the otherwise plush fruit of Gilbert's Vineyard. A warm fermentation with a combination of native and isolated Burgundian yeasts produced excellent and focused flavor extraction, complemented with traditional punch-downs by hand. The wine was aged entirely in Francois Freres cooperage, half new, and racked once, gently, prior to bottling. Grapes, must, and wines were moved using gravity through to the barrel and using inert gas through racking and bottling. 280 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

Lightly spiced and fruity aromas of strawberry, cherry, and raspberry mix with fresh herbs as an introduction to this hedonistic blend of fresh fruit and earthy spice. The wine opens to a broad and soft mid-palate of Bing cherry, cassis, and strawberry. The palate is elevated and brightened with a refreshing acidity that welcomes this wine to the table. The finish brings out dried fruits, plums, figs, pepper, tobacco, and cinnamon. The racy acidity and structure of the wine ensures this vintage will develop well over the next decade, revealing sensual subtleties hidden in layers beneath the robust fruit.