



2014 Russian Cuvée

Russian Cuvée has multiple layers of meaning. Originally named for the historic Reagan-Gorbachev Summit Meetings in 1985, it also refers to the vineyard's unique location in the Russian River area, and it is a nod to the Russian taste for slightly richer bubbly. The Russian is the "sweetest" in the Iron Horse line up, though it is still technically brut-level dry.

Technical Data

Appellation: Green Valley of Russian River Valley

Blend: 72% Pinot Noir 28% Chardonnay

Alcohol: 13.5% v/v

Acidity: .79 g/100ml

Residual Sugar: 1.3 g/100ml

pH: 3.07

Malolactic Fermentation: None

Harvest Dates: August 8 - August 30, 2014

Date Bottled: April 2015

Release Date: Current disgorging October 2018

Total Production: 1,200 Cases

Suggested Retail Price: \$45.00

Artisanal Winemaking: Hand harvested in the chilly fog of early morning, our Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes are gently pressed as whole clusters yielding base wines of great delicacy. The juice ferments slowly at 62° to 65° f retaining vibrant fruit esters. In blending this wine we chose Pinot Noir and Chardonnay lots that were a bit shy by nose but still showing an appropriate hint of varietal character. What was once shy now exhibits wonderful complexity and creaminess that comes from four years aging on the yeast. The dosage for this wine is 16 mls of Special LEX (50% Pinot Noir, 50% chardonnay).

Precision Winegrowing: At Iron Horse "Estate Bottled" means that the winemaking begins in the vineyard. Our location in Green Valley represents the very best soil, climate and aspects for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Our goal is to grow the best winegrapes through what we call "precision farming." All pruning, canopy management, irrigation and cover crop decisions are determined on a block-by-block (and sometimes even vine-by-vine) basis, considering both the vintage at hand and the long-term needs of the land.

For Sparkling and Still Wine, Precision Harvesting is Key: Our only rule is to make the best wines we can. We wait until harvest to decide sparkling or still, as the main difference is the brix level (or the amount of sugar in the grapes, less for sparklings, more for still). Then winemaker David Munksgard considers berry size (bigger is better for sparklings, smaller for still), the health of the canopy, clone selection, even small details such as the relative dampness of the cover crop can make a difference. If necessary, parts of the same block may be picked on different days.

Tasting Notes & Food Pairings: By nose, caramel apple, nutmeg and orange zest. By mouth, ripe red apple, lime, brioche and brown sugar. Delicious with pumpkin spiced pancakes, cinnamon buns, BLTs, pea soup, goat cheese, blue cheese, crème brûlée, rhubarb and raspberry tart, strawberry shortcake.



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