



2009 PINOT NOIR

Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley

MITSUKO'S VINEYARD, located south of Highway 121 in the cooler part of Napa Carneros, has proved to have an abundance of ideal sites for Pinot Noir. Purchased as bare land in 1989, we have continued to refine its plantings to maximize the potential of the site. As part of this ongoing development, we began to experiment with a diverse range of Pinot Noir clones in 1994, giving complexity and finesse to the wine.

HARVEST NOTES

At the beginning of the 2009 growing season budbreak was delayed. While cumulative rainfall was low overall, the atypically late timing of rain delayed irrigation needs, while a warm spell in June helped curtail excessive canopy development. The remainder of the summer and early autumn was steadily warm and dry. These ideal growing conditions led to optimal flowering, veraison and harvest. This mild weather, coupled with prolonged hangtime, produced wines which perfectly balance freshness and richness.

WINEMAKER NOTES

We harvested the individual blocks of Pinot noir in the cold of night, sorting out any clusters in the field that might detract from the final quality of our wine. When the fruit arrived at the winery, we made the decision to fully destem some lots of the fruit for purity of character and, alternatively, add a portion of whole clusters to enhance structure and add a subtle spiciness. Following fermentation, the tanks were drained into barrels for aging. Except for topping, these wines remain untouched under perfect conditions in our caves until being blended just prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2009 Mitsuko's Vineyard Pinot Noir possesses distinctive aromas of fresh black and red cherries and raspberry liqueur framed by warm gingerbread, oolong tea and sandalwood. This vibrant mid-weight wine is round and seamless in the mouth, with pitch-perfect acidity and minerality balancing the opulent mouthfeel. The wine's complex and exotic flavors invite contemplation while simultaneously providing immediate satisfaction.



TECHNICAL INFO

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir

CLONE

Dijon clones 114, 115, 667, 777, 828

MASSALE SELECTIONS

Swan and Pommard

VINEYARD

Mitsuko's Vineyard,
Carneros, Napa Valley

VINE AGE

12 years

SOIL

Haire Clay Loam and Diablo Clay

HARVEST DATES

September 16–October 17

FERMENTATION

100% native yeast

MALOLACTIC

100% native

AGING

9 months in 35% new French oak

BOTTLING DATE

August 2010

ALCOHOL

14.2%

RESIDUAL SUGAR

0.07%