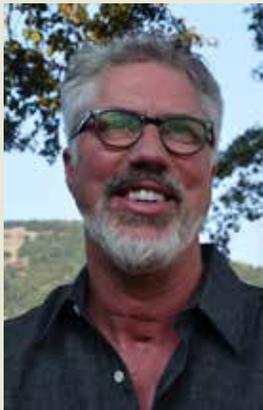


Pinot Noir Press



FROSTWATCH VINEYARD & WINERY

An under-the-radar artisan winery crafts limited production bottlings from the heart of Bennett Valley, one of the newest and coldest appellations in Sonoma County.



Founded in 2002 by Brett Raven and Diane Kleinecke, Frostwatch Vineyard and Winery is a small family owned operation committed to making high quality, hand crafted wines from Bennett Valley in Sonoma County. This recently established appellation is located just south and to the east of the city of Santa Rosa in a very cool pocket that is producing some exceptional wines, most notably Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah, and Pinot Noir. Brett Raven and Diane Kleinecke work together with the goal of crafting powerful, fruit-driven wines that are stylish, balanced and food friendly - and they are certainly doing an excellent job at that.

While 2002 was the winery's inaugural vintage, Brett and Diane's interest in wine dates back to the mid 1980's when they met while attending U.C. Davis. After completing their educations, Brett and Diane married and went to work in San Francisco's Financial District. They enjoyed urban life, but never gave up the dream of someday living in the country and having their own winery.

In 1995, Brett and Diane had the opportunity to purchase property in Bennett Valley, and shortly thereafter, moved to Sonoma County and had the first of their three children. They established Frostwatch Vineyard, and

it became clear that Brett had found his calling. In addition to farming, Brett held a series of winemaking positions at Alderbrook Winery, Matanzas Creek Winery, and Ramey Wine Cellars, and he took courses in winemaking through U.C. Davis Extension. The inaugural vintage of Frostwatch Winery came in 2002, and they have slowly grown their portfolio to include Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Semillion, Sauvignon Blanc, and Merlot. Most of the fruit for Frostwatch Winery is produced from their very own Frostwatch Vineyard in Bennett Valley.

Bennett Valley, Sonoma County's thirteenth appellation, is defined by three mountains - Taylor to the West, Bennett to the East, and Sonoma to the South. A gap in the mountains allows cool coastal fog and wind to pour into the valley on a regular basis throughout the growing season. While the varied elevations, sun exposures, and microclimates permit a wide range of grape varieties to be grown here, the consistent marine influence creates ideal growing conditions for cool climate loving varieties, most notably Merlot, Syrah, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir.

The name of Brett and Diane's winery is an ode to the extremely cool

continued...





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climate of Bennett Valley. Although the growing season is dominated by marine influences, in the early spring and late fall, the diurnal temperature fluctuations become more extreme and freezing temperatures are quite common in the nighttime hours. Chilly air sloughs off the face of Bennett Peak and settles over the Frostwatch Vineyard - it's further "down valley" progress is impeded by a low ridge at the back of the property. Brett and Diane are often on 'frostwatch' during these cooler times of the year, relying on alarms that are set to go off just before temperatures dip below freezing. When this happens, they activate frost control systems to prevent any damage to the vines and buds. Every few years, they have a very cold night and awake to find their fruiting spurs encased in ice with icicles hanging from the trellis wires.

Over the years, Frostwatch Vineyard and Winery has garnered several awards for its limited production wines and production has slowly grown to its present annual case production level of just under 2,000 cases.

We are pleased to feature this selection for our *Pinot Noir Wine Club* members and share our excitement for this rising star winery. Enjoy!

FROSTWATCH 2013 PINOT NOIR

Bennett Valley, Sonoma County

This is the fifth vintage of Frostwatch Pinot Noir, produced exclusively from the Frostwatch Vineyard in Bennett Valley of Sonoma County. The wine has power, yet it exhibits the delicacy that one expects in a fine Pinot Noir. Densely layered with an underlying bright acidity, the Frostwatch 2013 Pinot Noir offers flavors of bright cherry, plum, and cranberry with hints of earthy forest and black tea coming through on the nose. The firm structure promises more development over the years, but it is delicious now. Aged 17 months in oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy now until 2021.

90 POINTS

– *Wine Enthusiast*
magazine



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