

Pinot Noir Press



JOSEPH JEWELL WINERY

From a small Garagiste operation, this incredible winery has morphed into one of Sonoma County's leading Pinot Noir producers with multiple honors and accolades



It isn't easy for a winery to jump to a higher tier of accomplishment. In fact, many have tried and relatively few have succeeded.

One of the great success stories is this month's *Pinot Noir Wine Club* feature, the Joseph Jewell Winery of Sonoma County. Originally begun as a communal effort between two friends in a garage in Windsor, California, Joseph Jewell Winery was the handiwork of Adrian Manspecker and Micah Wirth. Both partners had associations with UC Davis and utilized their middle names Joseph and Jewell to name the new venture.

The first release of Joseph Jewell Winery utilized the 2007 vintage and a total of 450 cases were produced. The wines produced three 90-plus scores and the rest, as they say, is history.

Micah Wirth left the company a short while ago to pursue other interests and Adrian Manspecker is now the sole owner of Joseph Jewell Winery.

"I always wanted to be a Pinot Noir house," informed Manspecker. "But when we started the business it was right after the movie *Sideways* had made Pinot Noir fruit almost impossible to find so we concentrated on other varieties. Then the Recession hit and actually did us a favor. Many of the larger wineries began to back out of their grape contracts and suddenly the

vineyards we were seeking fruit from became available. We only bought top notch fruit from growers we knew were consistent, and the ensuing years have proven us right in our selections."

Now that he has complete control of Joseph Jewell Winery, Adrian Manspecker has leveled off his company's production at between 1,800 and 3,000 cases each year. "It all depends on the yield of each vintage, which is different every year. I am attempting to make delicate, balanced wines for our followers to enjoy, and these types of wines don't always bring the highest scores."

Why the love of the Pinot Noir grape?

"In my opinion, when Pinot Noir is produced correctly, it is more capable of expressing terroir than any other varietal. The terroir becomes the focus of the wine rather than the fruit forward aspect that generally expresses body and flavor," he added. "You can take fruit from the same block and make totally different wines with varying characteristics. Since every vintage is different, it is entirely possible to please a great number of people's palate needs with essentially the same wine."

Joseph Jewell Winery operates a tasting facility in Forestville (just above Healdsburg) on a ridge overlooking

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...continued from front

the famous Russian River. It employs a small staff (who also help during crush times) and Adrian Manspeaker continues as the company's permanent and celebrated winemaker.

On the Joseph Jewell 2015 Pinot Noir?

"I was able to utilize three different vineyards that produce outstanding Pinot Noir fruit. Hallberg Vineyard, Bucher Vineyard and Starscape Vineyard (formerly Floodgate Vineyard) each provide unique elements to the blend. The resultant effect from these three great vineyards gives the drinker a unique insight into what really good Pinot Noir tastes like. I believe it will please the palates of a great number of Pinot lovers, which was my aim from the very beginning."

This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the handiwork of one of California's top Pinot Noir producers that is seldomly available due to the limited production of the winery.

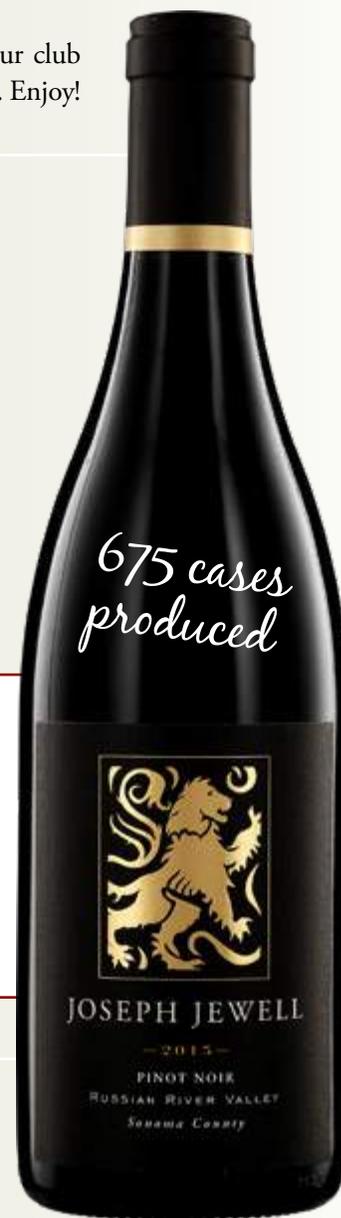
It is our great pleasure to introduce Adrian Manspeaker and his Joseph Jewell Pinot Noir to our club members. His wine speaks for itself in what we consider to be a formidable and highly enjoyable tone. Enjoy!

JOSEPH JEWELL 2015 PINOT NOIR

Russian River Valley AVA

Sourced from Joseph Jewell Winery's favorite Pinot Noir growers in Sonoma County's famed Russian River Valley, this elegant wine begins with a zesty bouquet of black cherry and raspberry interlaced with hints of rose petals and violets. The soft mid-palate is graced with an assortment of bright red fruit flavors that provide a longer-than-expected finish that delights the senses and yearns for more. This is a great sipping wine with an assortment of light cheeses. Chicken pilaf (try the Greek-style for real taste) or a tasty Coq au vin would serve this distinctive Pinot Noir nicely. 100% Pinot Noir. Aged for 11 months in French Oak (20% new). Alcohol 13.5%.

91 POINTS
- Wine Spectator



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