

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S *Pinot Noir Press*



v08i13



*L*YNMAR ESTATE

A producer of high quality and limited production Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Lynmar Estate is an extraordinary property of pristine beauty and unique vineyard terrior in California's Russian River Valley.



Situated on a unique and picturesque site with rolling vineyards bordered by the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed, the exquisite Lynmar Estate is a jewel nestled in the heart of California's Russian River Valley. From the forty-year-old vines, to the state-of-the-art, gravity flow winery and caves, expansive gardens, and elegant tasting room and hospitality center, Lynmar Estate is something of a prodigy, and owners Lynn and Anisya Fritz are understandably proud of their little piece of heaven.

Lynn Fritz purchased Quail Hill Ranch (the future site of Lynmar Estate) back in 1980, envisioning the Russian River Valley property as a rural retreat from a hectic international corporate life. This bucolic vineyard home was an oasis away from a busy life as CEO of Fritz Companies, a global logistics organization with a presence in 120 countries. He enjoyed the property with his wife Anisya, but let others run the business of winegrowing. However, as the years passed, and Lynn spent more time on the property, he realized the estate was a rare gift and a remarkable piece of land. He began adding pieces of land around Quail Hill, creating what is now the 100-acre Lynmar Estate.

The first commercial vintage for Lynmar Estate occurred in 1994 and the winery operated rather quietly for

the first few years. All of the wines (multiple clones and blends of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay) were estate grown and produced.

In 2001, Lynn shifted gears professionally, and founded Fritz Institute, a group dedicated to assisting humanitarian organizations with the logistics of global disaster relief. Simultaneously, he oversaw the replanting of many parts of the vineyard and he spearheaded the construction of a state-of-the-art winery and caves, as well as a tasting room and event center. Lynn was determined to push the boundaries of the estate to bring it to its full potential, and he certainly succeeded.

By 2008, Lynn and Anisya had made Lynmar Estate their permanent home, transforming themselves from absentee owners to resident proprietors. They now personally oversee a strict model for artisan winemaking and pay meticulous attention to every detail of the process. Their goal is to have absolute control over every facet - from vine, to cellar, to bottle - ensuring that each Lynmar Estate wine is crafted with the highest quality in mind.

Lynmar Estate's pristine physical beauty and excellent, terrior-driven wines makes for an unforgettable experience. We hope you enjoy this *Pinot Noir Series* feature.

ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Shane Finley is the talented winemaker behind Lynmar Estate's award-winning wines. Rather than finding inspiration in the halls of UC Davis like many of California's top winemakers, Shane found his passion for wine working in restaurants in New York. He moved to Sonoma County and earned hands-on experience working his first harvest at Copain Wines, then a second in Australia's Barossa Valley at Torbreck. He interned in France's Northern Rhone Valley, and finally returned to Sonoma to become Cellar Master at Copain. In 2005, Shane worked as Paul Hobbs' assistant winemaker and crafted the winery's celebrated Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays and Cabernet Sauvignons from some of California's finest vineyards. He joined Lynmar Estate in 2012, eager to work with the winery's exceptional estate vineyard and his wines have been a tremendous success.

LYNMAR ESTATE 2012 QUAIL HILL PINOT NOIR

Originally planted in 1971, Quail Hill Vineyard has some of the oldest vines in the Russian River Valley, and in 2011 *Wine Spectator* declared it one of the best Pinot Noir vineyards in Sonoma County. Lynmar's winemaking team captures this special vineyard in a Pinot that is elegant, complex, balanced, and age worthy. Ruby in color, this 2012 Pinot Noir offers notes of cherry cola, ripe strawberries, baking spice and sandalwood. The palate and lengthy finish highlight rose petals, cherries, cardamom, black tea, boysenberry, and ripe plum.

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93 POINTS

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93 POINTS

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Quail Hill Vineyard, Russian River Valley

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