

GOLD MEDAL
WINE CLUB'S

Pinot Noir Press



v09i01



SPELL ESTATE WINERY

Committed to producing the highest expression of Pinot Noir, Bill and Tiki Spell work with top Sonoma County vineyards and an internationally renowned winemaker to craft their award-winning, terrior-driven wines.



Inspired by their love of Pinot Noir, Bill and Tiki Spell founded Spell Estate Winery in Sonoma County in 2006. Their focus is on high-end, site-driven Pinot Noirs, sourcing fruit from some of Northern California's most desirable and popular vineyard sites. Each of their limited production, vineyard-designated wines are made to showcase the characteristics of the individual properties - from soil type to coastal and mountain influences. By focusing on the vineyards themselves, rather than just the end-product, Bill and Tiki ensure they are making the most expressive Pinot Noirs possible for their boutique brand.

Born in Edina, Minnesota, Bill Spell is an American entrepreneur based in Minneapolis. He attended University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor of Science and MBA before starting a career working for a regional investment-banking firm. He served as the VP and Director of Corporate Finance until 1988 when he left the company to establish Spell Capital Partners. This private equity firm specializes in industrial manufacturing and today it is one of the oldest in the country. Bill and Tiki are also heavily involved in numerous charitable foundations, and in 1997, started the Spell Family Foundation, supporting mainly religious, medical, and children's philanthropies. Together, they hold very successful careers that they still maintain today.

For many years, Bill and Tiki enjoyed collecting wines from all over the world and realized their favorites were often California Pinot Noirs. When an opportunity arose just over a decade ago to start a Sonoma County winery, naturally the ambition was to make premium Pinot Noir that rivaled the best in the region, if not the state. In 2006, Spell Estate Winery became a reality and the first vintage was made the following year.

Located just outside of Santa Rosa, Spell Estate Winery produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Rose (of Pinot Noir). The grapes are sourced from a handful of carefully selected vineyards in Sonoma County, Mendocino, and the Yorkville Highlands regions of Northern California. Overall production remains small and caps out at just under 2,000 cases per year.

Now in their tenth year, Bill and Tiki have built Spell Estate Winery into a reputable name with consistent awards and outstanding reviews from leading wine industry periodicals and professionals. While they continue to live in Minnesota, the Spells travel to California as frequently as possible to manage the winery and meet with their winemaker, Andrew Berge. Together, they take great pride in producing the special wines that represent their passion and the region of Sonoma County.

ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



Born in Germany, winemaker Andrew Berge grew up immersed in the European lifestyle with food and wine simply a part of his DNA. He comes to Spell Estate Winery with a degree in agricultural engineering, and winemaking expertise from Germany, New Zealand, and California, and a farmer's love of the land. His winemaking style can be described as careful and thoughtful, with a strong respect and understanding of the vineyard. Andrew also produces wine for his own label, La Pitchoune, which means 'the little one.' Known as one of the top up and coming winemakers in the region, Andrew already has many awards and top industry ratings to his name.

SPELL 2012 ALDER SPRINGS VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Dark purple garnet in color, the Spell 2012 Alder Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir opens with aromas of black raspberry, boysenberry, sandalwood, smoke, and freshly ground sage. On the plate, concentrated flavors of blueberry, raspberry, and ripe strawberry mingle with toasted grains, earth, bay leaf, sumac and juniper notes. The mountain fruit (from the high 1,700-1,900 foot elevation vineyard) is detectable in the rich tannin structure. Touches of mineraliy and wild berry fruit linger on the finish. Aged in French oak. 100% Pinot Noit

Cases Produced: 149

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Spell 2012 Pinot Noir
Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino

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