

Winemaker's Tasting Notes
Scot Covington – Winemaker

Trione 2013 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir
River Road Ranch

River Road Ranch encompasses 115 acres in the heart of the Russian River Valley appellation. Located on the western bench of the Santa Rosa Plain, the vineyard thrives in well-drained soils. The region's fog-cooled nights are ideal for this varietal. We hand-harvested the Pinot Noir from distinct blocks, clones #115, #777, Pomard and UCD#37, a classic California selection. Each clone contributed distinctive flavors and textural characteristics.

Cases produced: 1408
Suggested California retail price: \$39

Winemaking: We made this Pinot Noir in small lots, using traditional techniques — fermenting in open-top tanks and hand-plunging the caps during primary fermentation. To accentuate the delightful fruit flavors, we added 20% whole clusters to fermenter. The wine aged twelve months in French oak barrels (40% new) from coopers *Meyrieux Traditional House* and *Remond*. We bottled this Pinot Noir without fining or filtering in February 2013.

Alcohol: 14.5 percent by volume

Total Acid: 5.20 g/L

pH: 3.40

Tasting Notes: A classic Russian River Valley Pinot, this lovely wine presents aromas of dark cherry, exotic spice, green tea and a slight earthiness we call *forest floor*. It is silky on the palate, beautifully balanced with a long finish. The firm structure suggests excellent aging potential, 7 - 10 years.