

2023 WARREN, HILL PINOT NOIR

Russian River Valley



HI_TORY

In 2009, Merry leased this hilltop vineyard site that was originally planted by Warren Dutton and had been producing stellar Pinot Noirs under various labels for two decades, but it was in decline. When she replanted, Merry selected cuttings saved by Lee Martinelli when the beloved Windsor Gardens Vineyard was pulled out to make way for housing. New plants were installed in spring 2012, and the vineyard was given a new name — Warrens' Hill. Warren Dutton had long been a friend of Merry's and a respected figure in Russian River Valley. Warren Arnold was a renowned sculptor and supporter of Merry's for decades. Merry's son Warren, who died in 2006, was named after these stalwart friends, and this wine honors all three.

WINEMAKING

Grapes for this bottling were harvested on Sept. 27, 2023. The Pinot Noir was handpicked and hand sorted in the field and at the winery. Berries were 100% destemmed, with whole berries placed in the fermenter. The fruit was cold soaked for five days prior to initiating fermentation. After fermentation finished, the grapes were gently pressed and the resulting wine was aged eight months in 25% new French oak barrels. Bottling was done on Aug. 6, 2024.

HARVEST NOTES

After many years of drought, we welcomed a full dose of rain in 2023. The rains lasted throughout the spring, providing the vines with plenty of moisture to grow a healthy canopy and full crop load. It also helped to moderate temperatures. The summer was very typical for the Russian River Valley, with cool nights and coastal fog that came in every evening, barely burning off by noon. The growing season's cooler temperatures led to a delayed and prolonged harvest, so patience was key. The resulting wines are elegant, with mouthwatering acidity and focused aromatics.

TASTING NOTES

Warrens' Hill was planted in Green Valley in 2012 with cuttings saved from a beloved vineyard that was removed in late 2003. Twenty years later, the legacy of that vineyard, Windsor Gardens, lives on in our elegant, aromatic 2023 Warrens' Hill. Fragrant aromas of boysenberry, Rainier cherry, blueberry and plum join savory scents of fresh earth and crushed oregano. The appealing entry of dense, dark fruit is supported by ample acidity and mouthcoating tannins. A touch of pine forest graces the long finish.

APPELLATIONRussian River Valley

VARIETAL 100% Pinot Noir

CLONEWindsor Gardens

CASES PRODUCED

165

AGING 8 months in 25% new French oak

RELEA SE DATESept. 1, 2025

TA

5.67 g/L

PH 3.57

ALCOHOL

14.5%