

Exploring the 2019 Vintage at Merry Edwards

Merry Edwards winemaker Heidi von der Mehden's 2019 vintage, released in September, shows ripeness, lush textures, and dark fruit tones. The year saw lots of rain early on, leading to strong canopies and long hang time. "The grapes held on to their acidity well and provided firm tannins with beautiful structure," says von der Mehden.

Merry Edwards 2019 Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, Sonoma County (\$54) Earthy and regal, with thrilling aromas of white pepper, cherry bark, and red flowers. Spirited and spiced, with nutmeg and gingersnap weaving in between cinnamon-soaked cherry and dried heather. An earthy note lengthens the streamlined finish. **94**



Merry Edwards 2019 Meredith Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$80) Aromas of rose and red cherry show against a backdrop of blue fruit with a mocha-mint middle. The depth of this wine's sumptuous mouthfeel is impressive. Aged sur lie for 11 months in (55% new) French oak. **95**

Merry Edwards 2019 Pinot Noir, Bucher Vineyard, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$63) "It's John and Diane Bucher's commitment to sustainable farming that has been the guiding force for their winegrowing," explains von der Mehden. "I work closely with them in the vineyard and can attest to the fact that the fruit we get from this site is high-quality and produces powerful yet balanced Pinots." Beetroot and dark plum unite to bring out sandalwood and basil in this profound wine, in which ripe fruit with a savory side meets superb acid structure. **95**



Merry Edwards 2019 Pinot Noir, Warren's Hill, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$70) The nose of mulberry, Asian cooking spices, and black tea is phenomenal. Plum-skin tannins offer dryness on the entry, but the energy soon picks up to deliver the most dynamic palate of the four wines we tasted. Milk chocolate comes through on the mid-palate, joined by candied apple and a finish of rosebud and earth. Aged nine months sur lie in (65% new) French oak. **98** *LV*

Merry Edwards Winery is part of the Champagne Louis Roederer family and is marketed by Maisons Marques & Domaines.