

**Winemaker's Tasting Notes**  
*Scot Covington – Winemaker*

**Trione 2011 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir**

River Road Ranch encompasses 115 acres in the epicenter of the Russian River Valley AVA. Located on the western bench of the Santa Rosa Plain, the vines thrive in well-drained soils. The fog-cooled nights are ideal conditions for this varietal.

Vintage 2011 is proving to be a great year for Pinot Noir from the Russian River Valley. The cool growing season required vigorous crop thinning but allowed slow ripening and great flavor development. We hand-harvested the Pinot Noir from blocks planted with clones #115, 667, 777 and, for the first time, clones UCD 37 and Pommard. These new plantings of Pommard and #37 contributed additional structure and depth. The Trione 2011 Pinot Noir will reward those who put some away in the cellar.

**Cases produced: 1284**

**Suggested California retail price: \$37**

**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 outstanding fruit flavors, we added 20% whole clusters to the each fermenter. The wine aged fifteen months in French oak barrels (45% new) from coopers *Meyrieux Traditional House* and *Remond*. We bottled the Pinot Noir without fining or filtration, February 2013.

**Winemaker Notes:**

This wine presents aromas of blackberry, dark cherry, sage and a slight earthiness we call *forest floor* — characteristic expressions of the Burgundian clones grown in Russian River Valley. The wine is silky and full on the palate, muscular and balanced, with a long finish. The wine structure suggests long aging potential, 10-15 years.

Alcohol: 14.7 percent by volume

Total Acid: 5.50 g/L

pH: 3.72

August 2014