

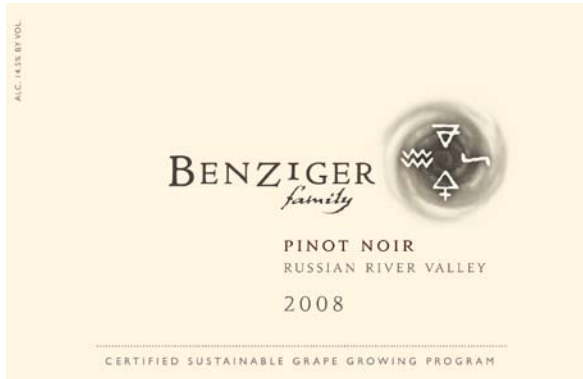
# BENZIGER

FAMILY WINERY

## 2008 PINOT NOIR

### RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Alcohol 14.5% | Total Acidity .56 | pH 3.64



**TASTING NOTES** | Our 2008 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir is a layered wine with lush cherry, plum and sweet earth flavors. In the glass, herbaceous aromas introduce the wine. The appellations cool climate allowed us to craft a Pinot Noir balanced with both red fruit flavors and lean, elegant acidity. The mouthfeel is smooth with a medium to long finish.

**WINEMAKING** | Russian River Valley is ideal for nurturing Pinot Noir because the growing conditions allow the finicky grape to ripen slowly and develop

complex flavors. Russian River Valley has become synonymous with high caliber and distinctive Pinot Noir in part because of the cool fog and Goldridge soils that influence winegrowing in these areas. Canopy development is reduced by the wind, resulting in lower yields and creating more concentrated flavors in the fruit. Each individual vineyard present in our 2008 Pinot Noir was harvested and barrel aged separately until blending in the spring of 2009.

In the cellar, the wine was aged in Hungarian oak barrels for ten months. After bottling in August of 2009, the wine aged in bottle for another eleven months before release. Four vineyards were blended in our 2008 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, resulting in a balanced and complete wine representative of this renowned region.

**VINTAGE** | “Extreme” would be a good description of the 2008 vintage. The elements played a huge roll in our vineyard management – from frost, to drought, to high winds, to heat waves and eventually smoke from fires hundreds of miles away, we were hard at work from start to finish. Initially, harvest began early in August, but cooler temperatures slowed things down a bit and the rest of the harvest was evenly paced and lasted into October.

**BENZIGER FARMING PRACTICES** | At Benziger Family Winery, we are dedicated to winemaking that reveals the true character of the vineyard, the varietal and the vintage in certified-sustainable, -organically grown and-Biodynamic® wines defined by individuality and the passion of the people who make them. This wine was made with grapes grown by **certified sustainable farming** methods. Our sustainable philosophy promotes natural vineyard management, restoration of the land and biodiversity on the estate. We believe these practices result in wines that reflect the authentic flavors, aromas and character of the vineyard.