



2020 Russian River Cuvée

Russian River Cuvée has multiple layers of meaning. Originally named for the historic Reagan-Gorbachev Summit Meetings in 1985, it also refers to the vineyard's unique location in the Russian River area, and it is a nod to the Russian taste for slightly richer bubbly. The Russian is the "sweetest" in the Iron Horse line up, though it is still technically brut-level dry.

Technical Data

Appellation: Green Valley of Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

Blend: 77% Pinot Noir 23% Chardonnay

Alcohol: 13.5% v/v

Acidity: 7.4 g/L

Residual Sugar: 11.3 g/L

pH: 3.15

Malolactic Fermentation: None

Harvest Dates: August 10 - August 25, 2020

Date Bottled: May 26 - July 1, 2021

Release Date: Current disgorging January 2024

Total Production: 950 Cases

Suggested Retail Price: \$58.00

Artisanal Winemaking: Hand harvested in the chilly fog of early morning, our Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes are gently pressed as whole clusters yielding base wines of great delicacy. The juice ferments slowly at 62° to 65° f retaining vibrant fruit esters. In blending this wine we chose Pinot Noir and Chardonnay lots that were a bit shy by nose but still showing an appropriate hint of varietal character. What was once shy now exhibits wonderful complexity and creaminess that comes from 3 years aging on the yeast. The dosage for this wine is 14ml Blanc de Blancs LEX, & 2ml 2019 Gold Ridge Pinot.

Precision Winegrowing: At Iron Horse "Estate Bottled" means that the winemaking begins in the vineyard. Our location in Green Valley, 12 miles from the ocean, represents the very best soil, climate and aspects for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Our goal is to grow the best wine grapes through what we call "precision farming." All pruning, canopy management, irrigation and cover crop decisions are determined on a block-by-block (and sometimes even vine-by-vine) basis, considering both the vintage at hand and the long-term needs of the land. Certified Sustainable.

For Sparkling and Still Wine, Precision Harvesting is Key: Our only rule is to make the best wines we can. We wait until harvest to decide sparkling or still, as the main difference is the brix level (or the amount of sugar in the grapes, less for sparklings, more for still). Then winemaker David Munksgard considers berry size (bigger is better for sparklings, smaller for still), the health of the canopy, clone selection, even small details such as the relative dampness of the cover crop can make a difference. If necessary, parts of the same block may be picked on different days.

Tasting Notes: Lemon Meringue on the nose with a touch of brioche. The front palate has flavors of blood orange zest followed by good texture and flavors of spiced poached pear with mid-palate ending with a long finish.



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