



**Moonshine Ranch Pinot Noir**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2014**

### **Vineyard Character**

This petite vineyard was planted in 1995 and 1996 at 2,500 vines per acre and is situated on rocky fertile ground with lots of exposed cobblestones. The rows are north/south oriented, which allows for indirect sunlight to have its effect on the even ripening clusters. Three Dijon clones were grafted onto rootstock to match climate behavior and the unique properties of each specific soil series. Moonshine Ranch is named for the century-old draughty barn on the property. The high raftered building stands as a relic for times of old, as its heyday was during the prohibition era, serving as a small factory for prune brandy.

### **Growing Year**

The growing year in 2014 was the third dry year in a row and was full of unforeseen challenges provided by Mother Nature. You would think the ongoing drought, excessive heat from March thru June, and hail in early April would have brought down the quality of this vintage. Thankfully this was not the case! Even though the harvest was very early, the small berry size and healthy yields have produced very well balanced wines; they are not over-bearing in tannin or structure, and are a pleasure to drink.

### **Production Notes**

Each vineyard block goes through meticulous sample testing and is picked at optimum brix levels to ensure mature, ripe fruit flavors. After being picked, the fruit undergoes a five-day cold soak to maximize the early extraction of flavor and color. This is followed by a wild yeast fermentation that promotes greater character and depth when the wine matures. Sugar and malolactic fermentations are completed in barrel, and the wine is *sur lie* aged in 70% new French oak for 10 months. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and is clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 783

### **Tasting Notes**

The 2014 Moonshine Ranch Pinot Noir has aromas of cola, deep cherry, hyacinth flower and black plum. It has a velvety texture and lengthy finish with root beer, leather and blackberry pie flavors.

### **Historical Acclaim**

2014 Vintage

- 93+ points Robert M Parker, Jr. The Wine Advocate
- 93 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2013 Vintage

- 94 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green