



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2012 “Stewart Ranch” Pinot Noir

Production: 480 cases

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards: Stewart Ranch, Lazar (Windy Flats)

Appellation: Napa Carneros

Elevation: sea level

Cooperage: 30% new French Oak(10% Francois Freres, 10% Remond, 10% Stavin), 70% neutral French oak

Alcohol: 14.8%, TA 0.50, pH 3.72

The Stewart Vineyard in Carneros has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Pinot Noir grape. Planted with the 115 clone on 101-14, and a 5 x 8 spacing, Stewart is actually on a peninsula in the Estuary, and keeps its leaves in a stoic manner most years, so that the fruit can stay shaded in the middle of the day.

The 2012 Hill Family Estate Pinot Noir was picked on Sept 11th, at 24.7 Brix. The season had been nicely moderate, with even ripening and average crop sizes. Leaves did start to come off and some raisining and bird damage and botrytis had started, but these were easily sorted out. We did not warm the tank, and added RB2 yeast for a slow steady fermentation. We were rewarded by the spicy cherry and dark rose notes that developed in the wine, and these evolved beautifully in the nine months it spent in barrel.

Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:

Light lovely nose grows steadily in volume, showing dark roses and cherries and some spicy cedary forest floor notes.

Palate is rich and frothy, a beautiful texture, continuing to add the dark cherry and graceful roses found in the nose, with building intensity and mouth covering quality. Wow – second sip even better!

This wine had no fining and no filtration. A small ppt may occur in the future as it was 22 NTU, but Cellogum was added to keep tartrates and particles in suspension