



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2013 Stewart Ranch Pinot Noir

Production: 388 cases

Composition: 100%

Vineyards: Stewart Ranch

Appellation: Napa Carneros

Elevation: sea level

Cooperage: 70% new French Oak (50% Francois Freres, 10% Tonnellerie O, 10% Stavin),
30% neutral French oak

Alcohol: 15.15%, TA 0.52, pH 3.65

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 2013 Hill Family Estate Pinot Noir was picked on Sept 9th, at 26.3 Brix, destemmed not crushed, fermented in an open top and punched down. 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. We had more new oak in this Pinot Noir than most years, because it seemed to be more intense and ripe.

Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes:

Still a young wine, the lovely French oak floats out over the aroma. Slightly buttery to start, the red currant and black cherry soon take over and a bit of the truffle spicy Pinot Noir hint of more complex aromas to come. Satiny texture makes this young wine amazingly drinkable. It has a soufflé type richness, dense in the mouth and then light and graceful on the finish. Would go hand in hand with a wild mushroom risotto.

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.