



ARISTA
WINERY

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2011 HARPER'S REST ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

TASTING NOTES

One of the two outstanding showings from the Westside Road property from the 2011 vintage, the 2011 Harper's Rest Pinot Noir is driven by organic, reductive, and aromatic base notes. Black soil, musk, and roasted chestnuts greet the nose initially. The wine is tightly knit, and more brooding than it's brother, Two Birds. Charred ribeye and pain grille add to bouquet. The nose is also more dominated by floral notes than Two Birds, with cherry blossom and lavender standing out.

The palate speaks more of the cool 2011 vintage than the darker, more unctuous Two Birds. The fruit profile is subtle, and the wine is driven by an earthiness that will be familiar to lovers of great red Burgundy. The bay leaf note is present here as well, juxtaposed with cocktail cherries, peppercorn, and clove.

The acid profile and tannins recall Burgundy as well: this wine, while pleasing to the palate now, is built to last and should drink well for years to come. We recommend aging this wine for 5-7 years.

VINEYARD NOTES

The Harper's Rest Estate Vineyard is the lowest elevation on the estate at the southeastern edge along Westside Road. This portion of land was once part of an ancient river bed. Over the millennia, the shifting course of the Russian River deposited alluvial material that created soils that can best be described as gravelly loam. These extremely well drained soils have a relatively shallow layer of top soils (14-20 inches) followed by layers of river pebbles and weathered stone. The vine's root system plunges deep beneath the earth in search of water and nutrients. The strain to find water serves as a natural means to keep vine vigor in check. Resulting yields tend to be less than 2 tons per acre which often results in wines that are more structured and finessed.

The vineyard is named to honor Ruben Harper, a pioneer farmer that settled in the Russian River Valley in the mid-1800's and home steaded what is now the Arista Estate. Ruben is buried under a California Bay Laurel in the middle of this 2 acre vineyard. Ruben's headstone and original rock wall surrounding his grave site still stand and can be seen during the estate tour.

TECHNICAL DATA

Vineyard Source: 100% Arista Estate, Harper's Rest Block, Russian River Valley

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Barrel Program: 30% new, 50% 1 year, 20% 2 year

TA: .57g/100ml

pH: 3.76

RS: .01 g/100ml

Alc: 14.5%

Harvest dates: September 19th, 2011

Released: Fall 2013

Cases Produced: 170