

La Crema

From esteemed vineyards like Saralee's and Bellflower, this vintage captures the cool-climate nuance and intensity that define Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

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Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Russian River Valley Pinot Noir 2022

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The Russian River Valley, in the heart of Sonoma County, is one of California's premier regions for Pinot Noir. Influenced by cooling fog from the nearby Pacific Ocean, the region's extended growing season allows grapes to develop rich aromatics and layered flavors while preserving vibrant acidity.

The growing season posed early challenges, with **unseasonably warm February weather** prompting premature budbreak and increasing frost risk. However, spring and early summer remained stable. A heat spike in late August led to **rapid ripening and a fast-paced harvest**, which began on August 26. Although yields were slightly below average, the fruit quality was exceptional, producing wines with **depth, flavor concentration, and structure.** Grapes for this cuvée were sourced from several vineyards, including Saralee's, Bellflower, and Barbieri, planted primarily on free-draining, low-vigor soils. Clonal selections included 777, 115, and 667, each contributing unique aromatic and textural elements.

Winemaking

Hand-harvested fruit underwent meticulous vinification, with fermentation designed to preserve the Pinot Noir's delicate aromatics while enhancing structure. Post-fermentation, the wine was transferred to **100% French oak barrels**, with **30% new oak**, for an extended **11-month aging period**.

This approach allowed the wine to develop **complexity and textural depth**, while maintaining purity and finesse. Minimal racking during aging helped integrate oak influence gently and maintain aromatic clarity. This vintage stands as a hallmark of La Crema's site-specific, small-lot philosophy.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Medium ruby with brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma**: Notes of red cherry, raspberry, and delicate rose petals rise from the glass.
- **Palate**: Boysenberry and plum dominate the mid-palate, followed by subtle earthy tones. Plush tannins and juicy acidity frame a long, balanced finish.

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Did you know?

La Crema has been sourcing Pinot Noir from **Russian River Valley since its earliest vintages**, helping to shape the region's reputation for expressive, cool-climate reds. All vineyard sources for this wine are **managed sustainably**, in line with La Crema's environmental and quality-driven philosophy.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck confit with cherry glaze**: Enhances the wine's red fruit and umami layers.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto**: Matches the earthy tones and soft structure.
- **Herb-crusted salmon**: A seamless companion to the wine's acidity and red berry vibrancy.
- **Beet and goat cheese tart**: A vegetarian pairing that draws on the wine's floral and earthy notes.



Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 90 Points (2021)

A youthful ruby with a purple tinge, the 2021 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Pinot Noir is ripe with black raspberry liqueur, cola spice, and purple flowers. Full-bodied, with a crunchy, more angular structure, it offers sweet tannins, ripe red berries and wild herbs, a gravelly texture, and a bit of toasted cedar. Drink 2024-2030. (Audrey Frick)