

Kistler

A wine of precision and elegance , reflecting the signature minerality and lifted aromatics of Russian River Pinot Noir with a focused, modern edge.

Russian River Pinot Noir 2023

California, USA



Region and Vineyards

The Russian River Valley in Sonoma County is one of California's most distinguished AVAs for Pinot Noir, benefitting from the marine influence of the nearby Pacific Ocean. This cool-climate setting ensures a long growing season that allows grapes to ripen slowly, preserving delicate aromas and vibrant acidity. The fog-laden mornings and warm afternoons contribute to the balanced profile characteristic of the wines from this region.

Kistler's vineyards are positioned along the Laguna Ridge and further west into the Sonoma Coast AVA, focusing on gravelly, iron-rich soils from the Sebastopol series along the Gravenstein Ridge. These redder soils enhance drainage and reflect the producer's exacting commitment to site selection. Yields are kept low—approximately 2.5 tons per acre—resulting in **tiny, deeply pigmented berries with high natural acidity**. Over the years, these vineyard parcels have been refined to showcase the site's ultimate potential, often taking more than a decade to fully reveal their personality.

Winemaking

Kistler utilizes proprietary heritage Pinot Noir clones that have been developed and refined over the past 25 years. These selections are known for low yields and a natural concentration of flavor and acidity. The vineyards are meticulously farmed with canopy management and cluster thinning throughout the season to ensure optimal balance.

Harvesting is performed by hand at night, preserving freshness and aromatic integrity. Grapes are destemmed but left as whole berries and undergo cool native yeast fermentations in open-top fermenters. No pump-overs are used, and extraction is managed gently, with minimal intervention. Only the free-run juice is collected, avoiding any pressing. The wine is matured for 10 months in French oak barrels (proportions undisclosed), racked just once, and bottled without fining or filtration, capturing purity and site expression.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Vivid ruby with medium density and a clear edge.
- **Aroma**: Aromatically lifted with rose petal, fresh raspberry, iron filings, and subtle baking spices.
- **Palate**: Silken texture and soft tannins support an elegant core of red cherry, pomegranate, and crushed granite. The acidity is lively, adding finesse, while a mineral thread provides tension and complexity on the long finish.

Did you know?

Kistler's Pinot Noir heritage clones are proprietary and trace back more than 25 years of clonal refinement. Their rigorous selection focuses on **tiny-berried plant material** that expresses site with precision and age-worthy depth—an approach that has helped elevate Sonoma Pinot Noir on the world stage.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with cherry glaze** – Accentuates the wine's red fruit tones while balancing the richness of the meat.
- **Miso-glazed salmon** – The wine's acidity and fine tannins complement the umami and texture of oily fish.
- **Wild mushroom risotto** – Earthy notes echo the wine's minerality and subtle forest floor hints.
- **Roasted quail with herbs de Provence** – Delicate yet flavorful, mirroring the wine's floral and spice notes.

91 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 91 Points (2022)

The 2022 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley is a heady, boisterous wine. Succulent black cherry and plum make a strong first impression. Hints of chocolate, lavender, dark spice and leather follow, but this is a forward, racy wine overall. The Russian River Pinot is mostly offered to the restaurant trade, where its joyous, exuberant personality is sure to win many admirers.

96 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 96 Points (2021)

This is tightly coiled, displaying vivid pomegranate, cherry and boysenberry coulis notes wrapped around energetic acidity. The finish offers a flurry of iris, hibiscus, anise and apple wood accents, with a deeply buried flash of bramble. Shows lovely range, tension and length; this just needs some cellaring to meld fully. Best from 2026 through 2036. 900 cases made.#54 on Wine Spectator's Top 100 for 2024

92 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 92 Points (2020)

Firm and focused, with a beam of dried berry, spice, loamy earth and red and black licorice that gains depth and richness, ending with a long, layered finish. Drink now through 2022. 741 cases made. (JL) (9/2013)

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