



*Jeff Runquist Wines*

## 2018 “R” PINOT NOIR, Sisters Vineyards, Carneros, Napa Valley



The Pinot Noir grapes that produce this wine come from the Sisters Vineyard in Los Carneros, at the very Southern tip of the Napa Valley. In fact, Bob Rogers, the grower, can't grow vineyards any further to the south without bumping up against the salt intrusion from the San Pablo Bay. We have produced Pinot Noir from this vineyard for more than a decade and, despite Pinot Noir's reputation for being a difficult grape to work with, I have found a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment making this wine.

The chemistry of the grapes is always impeccable and the fermentations are typically well behaved. But I suppose the real enjoyment is having Bob come up and taste the wines and lend a hand in the blending. For the last three vintages, we aged the wine exclusively in French oak that was one year old. We both prefer the delicacy that is available from lightly-seasoned oak and, as a result, the fruit flavors are pushed to center stage.

The 2018 has a dark ruby purple color of considerable depth. Perhaps the exceptionally low yield from this vintage has contributed to greater pigmentation of the grapes. While the aromas of this vintage remain focused on ripe black cherry and plum fruit, accompanied by nuances of currants, quince, and tangerine, there is more concentration and depth to the aromas. The bouquet of hazelnut, vanilla, and buttered toast, is a bit more subdued which is not unexpected given the strength of the fruit. The 2018 edition is a rich, fleshy wine with deep full flavors of red currants and cherry fruit that are accompanied by a dollop of toasted oak. The texture is more substantial than previous offerings and some time in the cellar might be in order.

*Varietal Composition: 100% Pinot Noir*  
*13.9% Alc.    0.68g/100ml TA    3.59 pH*  
*Oak Regime: 100% French Oak*

Producers of Vineyard Designated Table Wines