

2023 Vintage Notes

A VINTAGE IN BALANCE

The 2023 growing season was defined by dramatic weather swings that shaped the vintage into one of patience and precision. Beginning with massive winter rains and a delayed bud break—over a month later than in 2020 or 2021—the season progressed through a cool, extended spring that stretched flowering to an unprecedented 4-6 weeks.

Summer brought a mix of mild temperatures with periodic heat spikes, including a few days over 100°F in July, ensuring steady ripening. Veraison began slowly in late August, and September's cool weather further prolonged the season. Ripening accelerated in early October with a brief warm spell before concluding with timely harvests just ahead of significant rains in late October.

The 2023 wines capture the essence of this unique vintage, showcasing vibrant fruit, lifted aromatics, and remarkable balance. Pinot Noirs from this year glow with ruby hues and offer both elegance and complexity, while the Chardonnays deliver a focused, mineral-driven structure and fresh, layered flavors. This vintage is a testament to the synergy between nature and winemaking, resulting in wines of precision, depth, and grace.



Cheers!

Matt Courtney





2023 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

The 2023 Russian River Valley Pinot Noir captures the vintage's signature freshness and making this entry-level Pinot Noir an impressive representation of the Russian River Valley's timeless elegance. A vibrant reflection of the long season, this release displays crisp red fruit and high-toned botanical notes, plus a glowing ruby red color. Notes of red cherry, cranberry, and rose petal are elevated by a fresh, tangy mouthfeel and subtle earthy undertones. The extended season allowed us to harvest beautifully mature grapes, while a modest 25% whole-cluster fermentation contributes to the wine's delicate floral aromatics and fine-grained texture. Framed by just 20% new French oak, the wine retains its bright and approachable character, offering complexity without compromising drinkability.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2034.



2023 PERLI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Perched high above the Pacific Ocean on the Mendocino Coast at 1,800 feet above sea level, Perli Vineyard is the most visually spectacular site in Arista's portfolio. The steep, 60% slopes face south and provide expansive views of the nearby Sonoma Coast.

Perli's proximity to the famous vineyards that dot the ridgetops of the Sonoma Coast is immediately evident on the glass: Exotic notes of forest floor, tart cherry, rhubarb, and wild berry come alive in the 2023—all hallmarks of Sonoma's rugged coastal vineyards. Yet the wine's grippy tannins and firm acidity speak to the slightly cooler climate of this more northerly, high-elevation site. The 2023 edition of this wine is exceptionally elegant and ethereal, with delicate floral and botanical details and a brilliant translucent ruby color.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2034.



2023 UV LUCKY WELL VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



Lucky Well Vineyard is perched at the very top of Stoetz Ridge, the land mass that divides the true Sonoma Coast from the Russian River Valley. As such, the wine made from this site always expresses qualities of both regions: the high-toned wild berry fruit and earthiness of the Coast, and the Russian River’s signature power and richness.

The 2023 vintage brought its own set of challenges and rewards, with a cool, extended growing season and late harvest—allowing for exceptional flavor development and phenolic maturity. The resulting wine is beautiful with its hallmark jewel-like ruby color and effusive scents of fresh alpine strawberry, cola, dried flowers, hard candy, and turned earth. On the palate, vibrant flavors of tart raspberry, Damson plum, and a touch of pomegranate unfold, complemented by a lively, fresh acidity.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2038.

2023 UV VINEYARD PINOT NOIR



The UV Vineyard sits atop a low lying ridge Goldilocks zone of the Russian River Valley. This is truly the tenderloin of the appellation—to the east lie the warmer lowlands of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to the west lie the exposed ridge tops of the Sonoma coast. There are many famous Russian River Valley vineyards in this narrow corridor, but maybe none with such a pure example of Goldridge soil—the powdery, nearly white soil that gives Russian River Valley wines their renowned energy and elegance.

Dark garnet in color, the 2023 UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is a perfect example of this balance: A classic Russian River Valley perfume of roses, crushed bramble, candied strawberries, pine forest, and wet stones is accented by a subtle toasty barrel note. On the palate, the wine has a lively, mouth-watering, energetic feel powered by bright but well-integrated natural acidity and fine, powdery tannins. The UV Vineyard Pinot Noir is delicious now, but its firm structure bodes well for aging so be sure to stash a bottle or two in the back of your cellar.

Peak drinking window: 2027 - 2040.



2023 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Juxtaposing lush fruit with restraint, the Estate Pinot Noir represents the purest expression of our ethos as grape growers and winemakers at Arista. Of all the neighborhoods of the Russian River Valley, the Middle Reach has risen to fame as host to the oldest vineyards in the appellation, and also as the source of its most prodigious wines. Our ten acres of Pinot Noir lie in the heart of the Middle Reach, and were planted by legendary vineyard manager Ulises Valdez using 100% heritage selections of Pinot Noir.

The 2023 Estate Pinot Noir is a textbook example of what is possible in this celebrated appellation: Concentrated yet balanced, the wine melds notes of elderberry reduction, raspberry, black cherry, pencil lead, and toasted brioche. Combining fine-grained, polished tannins and well-integrated acidity, plus explosive blue fruit flavors, the 2023 Estate Pinot Noir is undiluted luxury on the palate.

Peak drinking window: 2026 - 2040.