

FLOWERS

Vineyard & Winery



Sea View Ridge Vineyard, Block 19

Estate Pinot Meunier

2011

Winemaker Notes:

Our first 100% varietal bottling of Pinot Meunier, this wine has a pretty ruby hue with purple highlights. Initial lingonberry and red fruit aromas on the nose with notes of cardamom, clove, and earth. The palate is pleasing with bright cherries and red currant with delicate silky tannins and a flint mineral finish that is satisfying.

2011 Vintage Notes:

2011 started off with below “average” rainfall and warm temperatures in the low to mid 70s in January and early February. The tides shifted in late February with plummeting temperatures and heavy March rains delivering 20+ inches on the estates. Relentless rainfall and colder temperatures pushed budbreak out to early April – the latest date in Flowers’ history (early to mid march being “normal”). A warmer and dry May moved things along quickly and flowering occurred in early June with near perfect weather. The remaining growing season was much cooler and fogs were prevalent below the ridge tops. Very low yields and a slow and cool maturation period allowed us to achieve phenolic ripeness at lower Brix, high natural acidity, and intense flavor concentration. The 2011 harvest was compressed to just a few crazy weeks. We started picking two weeks later than expected in mid September and rushed to get all the fruit in the winery prior to the early October rains. We picked our last Chardonnay on Camp Meeting Ridge the night before the first rains, which were vicious, dropping more than 11 inches on the estate in one day! You can expect the wines of the 2011 vintage from Flowers to be bright and lively showing a purity of fruit, refreshing acidities with a core of tension and structure, lower alcohols, and built for the long haul. We believe, as a whole, that 2011 is one of the greatest vintages in Flowers 20 year history.

Winegrowing:

Vineyards: Sea View Ridge Vineyard is situated at elevations ranging from 1,400 to 1,875 feet putting it well above the fog layer that fills the lower valleys during the warm summer months. The Pinot Meunier was sourced exclusively from Block 19, the only block that is not planted to Pinot Noir in the vineyard. The slope here is so steep that the vines are terraced and the soils are shallow, rocky and heavily influenced by volcanic intrusions, which provide a very high iron content. Block 19 is comprised of 1.52 acres of vines, has a predominantly northern exposure and is situated at 1,629 feet above sea level.

Winemaking: All fruit is carefully hand-sorted and 100% de-stemmed. Whole berries fall by gravity into traditional, small, open-topped fermenters for a cold soak at 52 degrees for 13 days prior to native fermentation. With minimal manual punchdowns (twice a day or less) the wine was left in contact with the skins for an average of 26 days depending on extraction and tannin levels. When the time is right, finished wine is pressed off the skins using a modern basket press and the wine goes directly to barrel with minimal racking prior to bottling. Cellared in 100% French Oak, 33% new, for 15 months. Unfined and unfiltered before bottling.

Technical information:

- Alcohol: 13.5%
- pH: 3.62
- Bottled: March 20, 2013
- Release Date: Fall 2013
- Cellared in 100% French Oak, (33% new) for 15 month
- Fermentation: 100% de-stemmed