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Frattey Shams Vineyard

Anderson Valley

Mendocino County

Ron Verdier, the owner of this 1-acre Pinot Noir vineyard, says “I practice sustainable farming and sustainable architecture.” He designed the MacPhail Winery, completed in summer 2008. In 2000 Verdier planted his small vineyard along Ornbau Creek in Booneville. Formerly a sheep pasture, the flat land has excellent exposure and cool temperatures. “Our success with the Frattey Shams vineyard is a result of good farming, a good Dijon clone, location and luck. James develops the grapes’ rich, earthy flavors.” Frattey Shams means grapevine in the local Boontling dialect.

Ferrington Vineyard

Anderson Valley

Mendocino County

The 74-acre Ferrington Vineyard, 32 acres planted to Pinot Noir in 1998, is just west of Booneville on a south-facing slope with shallow top soils. Owner Kurt Schoeneman says “The quality in our vineyard comes from the daily input of skilled workers, many having been here since I purchased the land in 1996. We share a sense of ownership. Every day the vineyard workers keep their eyes open for vines that are out of balance and immediately take corrective measures.” About James MacPhail,

Schoeneman says “Jimmie is a talented winemaker, and he produces clean wine with clear flavors. That’s what I like.”

Goodin Vineyard

Sonoma Coast

Sonoma County

In 2000 owner Ken Goodin planted this 4-acre Pinot Noir vineyard on former pastureland in southeastern Sebastopol. A gently sloping vineyard, it sits in the Petaluma Gap where the summer fog hangs and the ocean breezes blow. Goodin says, “This is an experimental, risky location and I appreciate that James, very early on, saw the promise of my unique vineyard.” The grapes have true Sonoma Coast flavor. “You can almost taste the fog and salt air,” claims Goodin

Pratt Vineyard

Sonoma Coast

Sonoma County

Jim Pratt has been growing grapes in Sonoma County since 1980 and is one of Sonoma County’s most experienced growers. In 1997 he planted his Pinot Noir vineyard to a mix of 6 clones on 15 acres in hilly southwestern Sebastopol. Yield is low – between 2 and 3 tons an acre. The well-drained Goldridge soil, cool climate and clones produce a distinctive crop. Pratt says, “James and I agree on quality and quantity. MacPhail’s Pratt vineyard designate captures this site and its clonal diversity.”

Sangiaco

Sonoma Coast

Sonoma County

Located at the foot of Sonoma Mountain in the Petaluma Gap, the grapes grow on flat to gently sloping land of gravelly clay loam. The climate is cool, and yields are small. From a total of 40 acres of Pinot Noir planted in 2000, James selects the Dijon 115 and Pommard clones. Owner Michael Sangiacomo, a third generation grape farmer, says that “James picks from good blocks of grapes. The 115 clone gives the wine structure, depth and concentration while the Pommard is visceral with fruit forward character.”

Toulouse Vineyard

Anderson Valley

Mendocino County

Vern and Maxine Boltz own this 17-acre vineyard planted to 4 clones of Pinot Noir (16 acres) and Riesling (1 acre) in 1998. Northwest of Philo, the vineyard has gravelly soil and gentle slopes with southeastern exposure. Yield is 3 tons per acre. “James captures my vineyard,” says Vern Boltz. “You taste the fruit forward cherries and berries, a little tobacco and leather, plus some earthy notes.”

Wightman House Vineyard

Anderson Valley

Mendocino County

A small 2-acre parcel planted in 1999 to the Martini clone of Pinot Noir, Wightman House Vineyard is owned by Michael and Susan Addison. Located in Boonville on the floor of this rolling valley, the vineyard gets full sun all day. Adjacent to Anderson Creek, it benefits from the cool ocean breezes that crawl along the creek bed each summer afternoon. Michael Addison describes the Martini clone as “striking, robust and earthy,” adding that “James’ winemaking reveals so much of the character of these grapes. The long finish introduces new notes, and that’s what I look for in a wine.”

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