

**2023 Histoire Russian River Pinot Noir  
Cousins Vineyard  
Forth Vineyards – Healdsburg, CA**

Harvest date: Late August 2023  
Bottled: January 2025, 142 cases of twelve bottles  
Brix: 25.2  
pH: 3.5

Fermentation: Open top tanks, indigenous yeasts  
Clones: 50% Calera, 50% Mt. Eden (Heritage French clones)  
Barrels: Mixed used French oak barrels – 16 months.

The grapes for this fine wine come from a former Pellegrini vineyard in the Russian River appellation, now owned by eight younger cousins. The French clones are two of the oldest in California, said to have been brought here and grafted to vines in the late 1890s. We select them year after year for the balance of flavor and elegance the wine delivers. The vineyard is on Olivet Road, with deep sandy clay soil and moderate fertility. The parcel is managed according to sustainable growing practices and is adjacent to plots managed by DeLoach, Sunce, and Hook & Ladder. The rows run east/west, providing nice shade for the maturing fruit during late summer. The crop load is managed to provide consistent quality throughout the four clones on the property. Each year I taste the fruit several times as it matures. When it's ready, usually around 24-25 brix, we harvest. In 2023, we were faced with hot days, cool nights, and a much smaller yield than expected. The result was more depth of flavor and a slightly higher level of alcohol, although I don't notice it when I taste the wine.

There are dark cherry and blackberry elements on the nose, a deep but bright mid and back-palate, with a satisfying finish. We find consistent notes in each vintage. Ages very well. Last season we received thumbs up

from a wine club member who opened two bottles of the 2014 vintage and pronounced it 'outstanding.'