



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E

2008 "Stewart Ranch" Pinot Noir

Production: 321 cases

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards: Stewart Ranch

Appellation: Carneros

Elevation: Sea level

Cooperage: 45% new French Oak and 55% neutral French oak

Alcohol: 14.5%, TA 0.58, pH 3.71

Release date: Spring 2011

Release price: \$38.00

The 2008 Hill Family Estate Pinot Noir was picked fairly ripe on Sept 12 to emphasize the black cherry and raspberry fruit typical of this vineyard. Strict cluster sorting to take out raisining and botrytis brought the yield down by one third, and due to lack of rain and the worst frost year in many years, there was not much crop out there to start with. In most years, the Stewart Ranch vineyard in Carneros has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Pinot Noir grape. But in 2008, there was a major hot spell lasting from Aug 24 to Sept 7 with temperatures all over Napa running into the 100s. Using the 115 clone on 101-14 and 5 x 8 spacing, Stewart Ranch is on a peninsula in the Estuary and kept its leaves in a stoic manner so the fruit could stay shaded in the middle of the day. With 25.6 Brix we brought the fruit in and breathed a sigh of relief at the nice color and bold fruit flavor in the tank.

Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes:

The 2008 has an inviting earthy, dark red rose Pinot Noir nose, which opens to black cherry and spice. The palate has intriguing surprises all through it, from a beautifully balanced raspberry soufflé texture to begin with and then a growing sense of weight and power, as the cherry, roses, and dark spice lead to a velvety finish.