



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E

2009 “Stewart Ranch” Pinot Noir

Production: 355 cases

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards: Stewart Ranch

Appellation: Carneros

Elevation: Sea level

Cooperage: 35% new French oak (Francois Freres, Remond, and Saury) and 65% neutral French oak.

Alcohol: 14.5%, TA 0.61, pH 3.58

Release date: Fall 2011

Release price: \$42.00

The 2009 Hill Family Estate Pinot Noir was picked on Sept 8th at 25.8 Brix, after a cool summer and some warmer weather in September. The black cherry and raspberry fruit typical of this vineyard were coming on strongly, and the birds were beginning to move in. The Stewart Vineyard in Carneros has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Pinot Noir grape. Planted with the 115 clone on 101-14, and a 5 x 8 spacing, Stewart is actually on a peninsula in the Estuary and keeps its leaves in a stoic manner most years so that the fruit can stay shaded in the middle of the day. Fog and clearing, fog and clearing, was the general weather pattern, allowing for good hang time and color development. Though it was a tough year for other varietals, and we did have to sort for botrytis, we were very pleased with the Pinot Noir and it has lived up to our hopes.

Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes:

The 2009 has an inviting aroma of earthy milk chocolate with cloves and roses. The palate has intriguing surprises all through it, from a beautifully balanced raspberry and cherry soufflé texture, both light and dense, and then the cherry, roses, and dark spice lead to a soft melting finish.

