



HILL FAMILY
E S T A T E



2011 “Stewart Ranch” Pinot Noir

Production: 400 cases

Composition: 96% Pinot Noir & 4% Petite Sirah

Vineyards: Stewart Ranch & Lazar (Windy Flats)

Appellation: Carneros

Elevation: Sea level

Cooperage: 45% new French oak (Stavin) & 55% neutral French oak

Alcohol: 14.2%, TA 0.56, pH 3.61

Bottled: 8/21/12

Release date: Winter 2012

Release price: \$48.00

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 5 x 8 spacing, the vineyard 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. The 2011 Pinot Noir was picked on Sept 26th, at 24.5 Brix. The bright cherry and raspberry fruit typical of this vineyard were already nicely evident, but seeds had ripened unevenly, and color was just starting to come out. We did not warm the tank, and added Assmanhausan yeast for a slow steady fermentation. We were rewarded by the spicy, cherry and dark rose notes that developed in the wine, and these evolved beautifully in the nine months it spent in barrel. This wine had no fining and only one very light filtration.

Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:

The wine offers classic rich aromas of dark roses and some loamy earth, with brighter dark berry and raspberry starting to emerge. Graceful rolling spice and roses unfold on the palate. At first, it feels light and refreshing, but there is a growing undercurrent of berry fruit on a warm firm texture of ripe tannin.