

# BJØRNSTAD CELLARS

## 2005 Hellenenthal Vineyard Pinot noir

### *Vineyard Notes*

Gard Hellenenthal and his wife Lori are long time residents of the rugged Sonoma Coast, planting their first vines to Pinot noir in 1980. Recent arrivals to the neighborhood include Flowers Vineyard and Winery, Hellen Turley's Marcassin Vineyard, Peter Michael and Jason Pahlmeyer.

The extreme conditions of this part of Sonoma County shape the land, the people and the wine and grapes grown there. Just 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean, winters can be long, cold and wet, buffeted by winds from intense storms reaching the mainland. Summers are generally dry and cool due to the moderating effect of the onshore breezes and summer fog pattern. The magic of the site comes together as the elevation of the vineyard at 1200 feet sits above the coastal fog, blanketing the surrounding valleys, keeping the temperatures cool, ideal for extraordinary development of Pinot noir structure and flavors. The soils are well drained decomposing sandstone of the Franciscan series, which causes the vines to dig deep for their sustenance. These two natural resources naturally conspire to control vine vigor, ensuring very low yields and very concentrated wines.

In 2000, Gard retained my vineyard consulting services to help him establish his 'New Block'. Together, we developed this block with the intention that one day, I would buy the fruit for my own wine project. The wines produced from this block are deeply colored, structured wines that emphasize dark fruits and spice.

### *Tasting Notes*

From the grapes' arrival at the winery on September 26, 2005 to today's tasting, the impression is the same; "chocolate covered cherries". This deeply colored wine has a smooth, rich texture owing to the fully developed tannin structure. Flavors follow aromas with its fruit forward core and layers of licorice, mineral and East Indian spices culminating in a very long velvety finish.

**Production:** 1200 bottles

**Release date:** October 1, 2006

**Suggested retail:** \$50

PO BOX 519, SEBASTOPOL, CA 95473  
707-829-1687  
GREG@BJORNSTADCELLARS.COM