

ROAD 31 WINE CO.

grin-inducing pinot

Dear Truckers (Spring 2020):

Greetings from Napa, where the hills are green, so is the truck, and the 2018 Pinot Noir Napa Valley is red, ripe and ready. I am particularly excited to offer this vintage to you, so I'm going to dive straight in.

About a week ago, I sat and penned these tasting notes: *Robin of the Hood, tights and all, gallops at breakneck speed upon his trusty steed. Ahead, on the Sherwood Forest floor, sparkling in dappled sunlight, he spies ripe red berries. Dropping deep to the side of his rushing horse — a skill that hints at his noble upbringing — Robin scoops a handful of the luscious fruit, deftly dropping the unblemished berries into his well-worn leather saddle bag. Hood and his horse then burst into a small clearing; at the far end stands Maid Marian, in quintessential imminent peril. Robin leaps from his horse, raises his bow, and retrieves an arrow from his quiver ... all in one adroit motion. With preternatural calm, he closes one eye, aims, releases, and spears the hat straight from the head of the evil Sheriff of Nottingham, pinning the hat to the adjacent tree. The sheriff squeals with fright, releases Marian, and scurries clumsily into the custody of the awaiting Merry Men. Hood, now wearing a sly smile, saunters across the clearing and presents the berries from his saddlebag as a gift to the radiant and ever-composed Marian. She chuckles, turns, and adds the luscious fruit to the giant celebratory feast spread upon a seasoned oak table that has suddenly appeared amongst the wildflowers. Marian and Robin share a sip of wine ... and a kiss. The Merry Men cheer. This, my friends, is the sensation of tasting the 2018 Road 31 Pinot Noir Napa Valley.*

Then, just a couple days later, Jeb Dunnick, the professional (and respected) wine critic, published this description of the 2018 Pinot Noir: *"...shows the more feminine, elegant side to Napa Valley Pinot Noir, with lots of game, foresty, and spicy notes as well as ripe strawberry fruits, medium body, and silky tannins. All destemmed and aged 11 months in French oak, it's well worth seeking out and should evolve for 7-8 years with no issues. 91 points."*

I'll let you choose whichever description best speaks to you. But I'm struck by their similarities.

As long-time Truckers know, I only make one wine, not much of it (700 cases), and I only offer it by allocation this one time per year. If you want to add this wine to your cellar, the enclosed card provides instructions on how to log in to see and secure your allocation. I cover shipping on a case or more. The order window will be open until March 30. And as always, while I try to allocate carefully, it's ultimately first come, first served; please don't dally.

I hope to share this wine with you, and that you will share it with your friends, family, in-laws ... and outlaws.

Kent Fortner (Winemaker/Truck-Owner)



NAPA VALLEY