

Editors' CHOICE

Merry Edwards Wines

ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO BECOME A California winemaker, Merry Edwards purchased 24 acres in 1996 in the Russian River Valley, intent on growing luscious pinot noir. Two years later, Edwards planted the Meredith Estate Vineyard on the property and harvested a small crop in 2000 – the first Meredith Estate Pinot Noir. In the meantime, Edwards developed long-term commitments with prime growers in the Russian River Valley, including Ted Klopp, Bob Pellegrini, Phil Flax, and Randy Johnson. These collaborative relationships have allowed Merry Edwards Wines to increase its offerings, vintage after vintage. The Merry Edwards family of vineyard-designate wines has expanded since 1997 to now include Klopp Ranch, Olivet Lane, Tobias Glen, and Flax Vineyard Pinot Noirs.

In 1999, Merry Edwards and her husband, Ken Coopersmith, enhanced the brand's estate program by purchasing 9.5 acres in the Russian River Valley, planting it in 2001 with Merry Edwards's own rare Pinot Noir UCD clone 37. The first Coopersmith Pinot Noir vintage was 2004. Coopersmith Vineyard is also the site of the new Merry Edwards Winery, completed in 2008. Merry Edwards added barrel-fermented sauvignon blanc in 2001, produced from grapes grown at Cohen Vineyard, Hopkins Ranch, Crinella Marino, and Dutton-Jewell.

In 2006, the couple further expanded their estate properties, signing a 30-year lease for a seven-acre property along Westside Road. They planted the new Georganne Vineyard exclusively with Pinot Noir UCD clone 37. In the same year, they leased Cresta d'Oro – eight newly established acres of pinot noir and sauvignon blanc adjacent to Meredith Estate Vineyard.

Edwards's and Coopersmith's growing portfolio of estate vineyards is indicative of their focus on winemaking from the ground up and high-quality craftsmanship. With exceptional Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast grapes, Merry Edwards is able to produce acclaimed wines using gentle, traditional, labor-intensive winemaking practices. Her handcrafted wines are available only direct from the winery (www.merryedwards.com) and in fine restaurants throughout the United States. ●

