



## 2007 Pinot Noir – Marin County

**Willowbrook Cellars is proud to introduce its second Marin County Pinot Noir.**

Since there are just 200 acres planted in Marin (compared to a total of more than 105,000 acres of vineyards in Napa and Sonoma), we feel privileged to be among the few to source grapes from this up-and-coming wine region.

**The vineyard is located in the northernmost part of Marin**, an area noted for late, lingering fog and intense, cool winds coming in from Point Reyes. Yields are always quite low in the region and this particular vineyard has never seen a harvest that produced more than two tons per acre. With these challenging growing conditions it is vital that a vineyard manager knows what to expect from Mother Nature, and how to best grow grapes here. We feel very fortunate to have Mark Pasternak of Devil's Gulch Vineyard managing this vineyard.

**2007 was an incredibly mild summer** with ideal growing conditions for Pinot Noir. Crop set was perfect and the growing season was long and cool, allowing for extended hang time. Harvest was the third week of October. The grapes came in at 24.8 Brix with a total acidity of 6.85 g/l, intensely flavored with soft, smooth tannins. The fruit was gently de-stemmed and covered in dry ice to release a protective layer of CO<sub>2</sub>. The grapes -about 70% remained as whole berries -- were placed in an open-top tank and cold-soaked for an additional four days before fermentation. After the active fermentation started, the temperature peaked at 84 degrees. This helped to stabilize color and to give additional mouth-feel. The skins were then gently pressed and the wine put to barrel.

**This Pinot Noir spent a total of eleven months** in small French oak barrels and was bottled in August, 2008. The resulting wine has a flavor profile reminiscent of an Oregon pinot noir, with intense aromas of fresh mushrooms, spiced rum, and hints of pomegranate. The texture is rich and its flavors offer notes of dark red fruits around a core of raspberries and a long plummy finish.

**Joseph C. Otos – Winemaker**

**Production: 513 cases**  
**Alcohol content: 14.3%**  
**Retail: \$34**

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