

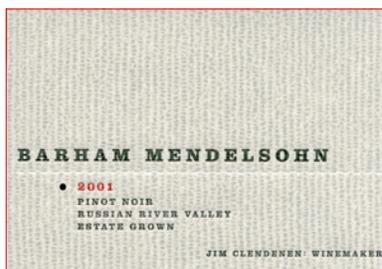


BARHAM MENDELSON

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

winemaker: Jim Clendenen

In 1998 with the help of renowned viticulturist Fred Peterson, Barbara Barham Mendelsohn and Richard Mendelsohn planted 5 acres of Pinot Noir on their Lala Panzi Ranch in the Russian River Valley using the 114, 115, 667, and 777 clones from the University of Dijon in Burgundy, and the traditional Pommard selection from UC Davis. During this same period, renowned Pinot producer Jim Clendenen (Au Bon Climat and Ici/La Bas) was planting his organic Le Bon Climat Estate with almost identical vinifera.



The Mendelsohns had always loved the Au Bon Climat wines and proposed a collaboration. Jim was attracted by the beauty and viticultural potential of the property as well as the Mendelsohns' commitment to organic farming; a shared vision of food and wine culture between Clendenen and the Mendelsohns has cemented the relationship.

Careful canopy management, organic farming, micromanagement of ripening and the quick harvest early in the morning guarantees perfectly balanced fruit. Barham Mendelsohn is an exclusive result of the chemical composition of the grapes. In a time in California of excessive alcohol, concentration machines, de-alcoholizing filtrations, water and acid additions, and color manipulation, this Pinot Noir is as natural a product of its Russian River heritage as could be expected, both in vineyard and in the cellar.

PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

The Barham Mendelsohn project lets Jim extend his Pinot Noir expertise to one of California's most renowned growing regions for this fickle grape: Sonoma's Russian River Pinot exhibits more pronounced red berry and high toned, warm cinnamon notes compared with Santa Barbara's darker, more plummy characteristics.

Tanzer's IWC on the 2005: 90 POINTS *"Bright medium red. Zesty red berry and baking spice aromas are underscored by minerals and a gentle hint of smoky incense. Fresh and precise, with lively strawberry and raspberry flavors, tangy minerality and good acid bite. Silky tannins add shape to the spicy, wound-up finish. This pinot, made by Jim Clendenen from a densely planted five-acre site, is more about finesse than force."*

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