



B. Kosuge Wines

2018 "The Shop" Carneros Pinot Noir

2018 The Shop Carneros Pinot Noir: 2018 was an easy vintage compared to 2017. Less heat, less fire. We were all a bit shellshocked after the 2017 vintage. Even those of us who were lucky enough to pick before the fires and/or avoid the worst of the damage were feeling a little worn out by the time all the fruit was in. So as the 2018 growing season unfolded, there was a bit of "when is it going to turn difficult." Although no vintage is completely free of drama (it would be boring if it was) 2018 seemed like a cakewalk. I have noticed over the years that sometimes these "easy" vintages result in wines that take a while to show themselves. During aging, the Shop was seamless—at times even boring—and more than once I wondered whether the wines would ever open up. Now that they have, what seemed "boring" has transformed into "classy." Often times the vintages that are more reserved when they are young are the ones that age well, which bodes well for the future of this wine.

The 2018 Shop is a bit of a return to the norm—by that I mean that it has more in common with previous vintages of The Shop than it does with the big, dark and showy 2017. It is not as flamboyant as the 2017, but is instead a little more structured and perfumed. More pure than powerful. As always, The Shop is a blend of oak and concrete aged wines, and is one of my most "user friendly" offerings--fruity and easy to like, but with a little structure and gravity. It's showing well now, and will go with all the usual matches for Pinot Noir. Which is to say, pretty much everything!