



B. Kosuge Wines

2012 "The Habitat" Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

2012 in most respects was a much easier season than 2011. Less mildew, bigger crops, more forgiving weather. And more temptation—any year that the crop is naturally large, there is always the opportunity to hang a little more fruit than you really should. In my opinion, those who succumbed to greed were punished, and those who did the right thing were rewarded in 2012. There are two vineyards that comprise this wine, each of them farmed to exacting standards by my friend Paul Sloan of Small Vines Wines. In both cases, yields were kept modest through a combination of assiduous cluster thinning and the natural tendency of the vines in these particular sites to set a small crop.

The 2012 wines are without exception larger and more tannic than their 2011 counterparts. Not necessarily riper, just more extracted, darker, more muscular. When selecting the barrels that would go into The Habitat I found myself gravitating towards the older barrels. Something about the combination of newer wood and the somewhat tannic young wines didn't quite work; the more neutral barrels, by not adding much tannin of their own, let the grape tannin carry the wines and allowed the fruit to really shine. Most of the barrels that went into the 2012 Habitat were older wood.

The Habitat is always the prettiest, most aromatically expressive of my wines and 2012 is no exception. Even though the 2012 vintage is more tannic than most, the aromas in this wine jump readily out of the glass. Generally red fruits and a hint of rhubarb or citrus with good lift define the aromas; energy and acidity keep things interesting on the palate. Give it a little air though, it does need some time to open up. 125 cases.