



B. Kosuge Wines

2013 Hirsch Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

2013 was an interesting year at Hirsch Vineyard. In stark contrast to 2012 and 2011, it was one of the earliest harvests in my 12 vintages working with this vineyard. Despite this, the wines don't taste like the product of an early, warm harvest. Quite the opposite; especially when they were young, they were tight, introverted, tough, inexpressive. It took until the late spring of the following year before I was able to get a read on the wines. Even at bottling, I thought it would take a long time before the wine opened up and showed itself, which has proven partially true so far.

I work with two small blocks in Hirsch vineyard. They are located along the same ridge, a few hundred yards apart. Although they are different ages and are planted to different clones, the wines from both are unmistakably from this place, and depending upon the year I might favor one over the other. When I choose the barrels that comprise this bottling, I am not just looking for the ones I like the best, I am looking for the wines that speak most clearly and eloquently of their origins. For these reasons, and others, there is often little or no new oak in the Hirsch bottling—I often find that the best barrels have been used once or twice before, and contribute a little structure and spice to the wine without making it taste too much like a barrel. Broken in, so to speak.

As of this writing, the 2013 Hirsch is just coming into its own. Aromatically, it has the usual dark cherry fruit overlaid with a brown spices that is, in my experience, characteristic of this vineyard. On the palate, dense but weightless, and still very young. It needs time.

75 cases