



B. Kosuge Wines

2013 "The Shop" Carneros Pinot Noir

The first thing that comes to mind when I think about the 2013 vintage in the context of those that preceded it is "classic." Not classic as in vintage of the century, but classic in terms of what I have come to think of as pure expression of varieties. The 2013 Pinot Noirs tend to be more perfumed, tighter structured and less obviously "fruity" than the 2012 vintage. In this way, perhaps less typically Californian. They strike me as somewhat "old world" or perhaps more accurately, "old school" in character. In a good way, of course.

As I have written elsewhere many times, I'm preoccupied with energy, purity and freshness in wine, particularly Pinot Noir. There are too many examples of California wines (some of which I made myself) that seem somehow lethargic after a short time in bottle. It's not always a function of too much ripeness. It seems to be more complicated than that. Much of my winemaking the last few years has focused on keeping the wines younger, fresher. Less new oak, less time in barrel, less oxidative handling.

The 2013 Shop took me by surprise. It is the only Shop to date that I aged longer than a year. It was brought out of barrel just prior to harvest and spent the next three months or so in stainless. I bottled it in December, just after the 2014 harvest. Usually I bottle all my wines on the early side, during the summer preceding harvest, while they still have plenty of energy and freshness. The 2013 Shop, however, demanded a more "traditional" approach, meaning extra time in the cellar before bottling. Both to resolve the tannins but more importantly to resolve the flavors and aromas. An outlier, in my experience.

At this stage I find the 2013 Shop to be quite pretty in the aromatics, and noticeably lighter on its feet than the 2012 or 2011, which is a good thing. As always, there are lots of whole clusters in the fermenters, and the wine is fermented using indigenous yeast and bacteria. An honest, un-manipulated expression of Pinot Noir from Carneros. 390 cases made.