

## 2006 La Cruz Vineyard Pinot Noir

### Winemaker's Notes:

After the great score in the Wine Spectator (95 points!!!) I have never feared the "Sophomore Flop" more in my life. I did not want to put out the Pinot version of Caddyshack II. Fear not: this wine can go toe-to-toe with the 05, and probably kick its ass. The 06 La Cruz is more powerful all around. It has the common flavors of Sonoma Coast: raspberries, strawberries, pomegranates, but with more intense fruit character focus.

The careful use of tight-grained French oak gives the wine a slight vanilla and nutty character that goes hand in hand with the fruit profile.

As the wine opens up an earthiness/mushroom layer is revealed. I picked the two clones (114 & 115) about a month apart. The early pick of the 115 actually came in riper with a bit less acidity than the late picked 114.

It just goes to show that the use of the term "microclimates" within a vineyard is not just marketing "smoke and mirrors" - but in this case was reality.



La Cruz Vineyard



Ryan Zepaltas winemaker

### wine info

**137 cases made**

**Harvest Dates:**  
**9-25-06, 10-23-06**

**11 months in barrel**

**50% new French Oak**

**pH 3.68**

**14.5% alc.**

**TA .58**