



## 2009 FELSECK VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

### WINEMAKING DATA

**Harvest Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2009  
**Blend and grape source:** 100% organically grown estate Pinot Noir from the Felseck Vineyard  
**Brix at Harvest:** 22.5  
**Alcohol:** 13%                      **pH:** 3.65  
**Residual Sugar:** 0.39 g/L      **T.A.** 6.16 g/L  
**Bottling Date:** March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011  
**Oak regime:** 100% French Oak: 43% New, 29% 2<sup>nd</sup> fill and older for the 1<sup>st</sup> 7 months; 14% New, 14% 2<sup>nd</sup> fill and older for a further 5 months; Stainless steel for 3 months  
**Time in barrel:** 15 months  
**Bottled:** Unfined, Unfiltered by Gravity

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The vines for this wine were meticulously maintained to maximize fruit ripening. All Pinot Noir bunches were exposed to direct sunlight through leaf removal to promote maturation and flavour development. 'Green harvest' – or the elimination of under-ripe bunches – was performed at the first sign of *véraison*. 'Véraison' is the colour change from green to red for Pinot Noir berries. Yields from this vineyard were extremely low; only 25hL per hectare (or 1.4 tons per acre). Low yields encourage ripening, flavor concentration and expression of our Beamsville Bench *terroir*.

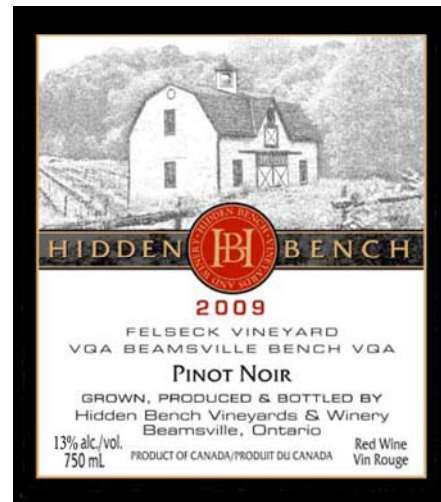
The grapes were handpicked, sorted, de-stemmed and vatted and then chilled for 10 days – this cold-soak encourages fruit flavours and colour enhancement. The wine was fermented with indigenous yeasts and the skins were hand-plunged three to four times a day during fermentation to balance extraction with finesse in the finished wine. Gravity was used to directly fill barrels at the end of fermentation and the skins were gently pressed in a traditional basket press. Malolactic fermentation occurred naturally in barrel and was complete in January 2010.

### TASTING

The dark and earthy 2009 Felseck Vineyard Pinot Noir offers up superb aromas of ripe plum, black cherry and cigar box that reflect the 2009 vintage. On the palate, the typical Felseck ferrous minerality shows through and the firm tannin structure gives the wine great cellaring potential. Best enjoyed in traditional Burgundy stemware this wine would benefit from good aeration prior to drinking.

### THE GROWING SEASON

The 2009 vintage can be characterized by the saving grace of the warmth of late August and the month of



### TERROIR SERIES \$48

September. This six week period turned a challenging growing season into a classic. Overall seasonal temperatures were lower than historical averages while precipitation levels were higher.

This required meticulous attention to detail in the vineyard with extreme yield management to ensure our fruit achieved the highest possible maturity. April, May and June were cool months with more rain than the same period over the last 5 years – 325 millimeters in a 90-day period!

New vineyard plantings benefited from this moisture, while our existing blocks required more attention than normal to limit vigor.

In July it was evident that extreme yield management was required to ensure the best quality fruit. Green harvesting, the removal of under-ripe grape bunches from each vine, was completed three weeks earlier than normal to enhance fruit maturity. Using precision viticulture, we meticulously maintained vine growth to expose fruit to the sun, encourage air circulation, which in turn opened up the canopy. Leaves were removed when they shaded grape bunches; vine shoots were positioned vertically to provide maximum exposure to the sun.

There was a positive change in mid-August and throughout September. This period of dry, warm weather truly enhanced the vintage. Flavours developed beautifully in the vineyard. The benefits of our extreme yield management were evident in mid-September and harvesting started the first week of October.

The harvest months of October and November were cooler than average thereby prolonging the vintage and allowed our fruit to ripen completely on its own terms. Cool climate viticulture contributes to the story of our terroir and vintage to vintage variation, adds to the notion of 'truth' in our wine.