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DUTCHER CROSSING WINERY RELEASES FIRST PINOT NOIR
2008 Pinot Noir, Maboroshi Vineyard, Russian River Valley

HEALDSBURG, CA, January, 2010 — Dutcher Crossing Winery has released its first ever Pinot Noir, the 2008 Maboroshi Vineyard, Russian River Valley. “Our winemaker, Kerry Damskey, and I enjoy seeking out small, hillside vineyards for our limited small-lot wines, and this is our newest venture,” explained Debra Mathy, proprietor. “Tom and Rebecca Kisaichi own an 11-acre vineyard west of the town of Sebastopol in the newly recognized area for Pinot Noir called the Sebastopol Hills,” she continued. “Pacific maritime influences define the terroir of this area, with cool winds and fog ensuring extended hang times and late pick dates.”

Named for a Japanese term for extraordinary visions, the Maboroshi Vineyard reflects the hard work and adventurous spirit of its owners. A couple with no winemaking or vineyard experience, they left Japan for France in 1991 with a dream to become wine growers. Tom worked for Gevrey-Chambertin’s famed Domaine Armand Rousseau in Burgundy, while Rebecca studied at the University of Bourgogne, which eventually led her to study viticulture. Another move took them to the Sonoma County wine region of California. Starting from the cellar up, they continued on their respective paths, leading to the reality of their “Maboroshi” dream.

Organically farmed, the vineyard is planted on a 30 percent slope, climbing from 400 feet at the lowest elevation to 600 feet at the top. The west side of the vineyard, the coastal side, sees more wind and the grapes tend to have more acid. Two clones are planted: Dijon 667 and 115. Clone 667 provides rich color, a lot of fruit, body and structure. The 115 Clone provides grapes that are more fruit forward with fragrant perfume aromas and elegance. Fine, sandy loam Goldridge soils nurture the vines. “Millions of years ago, this site was underwater,” explained Rebecca Kisaichi, who works and manages the family vineyard. “The loamy riverbed mixed with sand, resulting in soils that drain well

but also have good absorption.” Planted in 1999, the 2008 vintage was the fourth grape harvest for the property.

The 2008 vintage was defined by mostly ideal ripening weather in July and August. The week before Labor Day, the fog disappeared and daytime temperatures rose, remaining extremely hot for several consecutive days. For Pinot Noir in most of the Russian River Valley, sugars rose rapidly to elevated thresholds. Fortunately, in the Sebastopol Hills growing region of the appellation, the coastal breezes blunted the extremes of the heat spell, and grapes maintained their balance.

“We made this wine from 50 percent Maboroshi Vineyard Clone 667 Pinot Noir grapes and 50 percent from Clone 115,” said Winemaker Kerry Damskey. It was fermented with native yeast in open top tanks and punched down by hand; given 15 days of skin contact, and aged for eight months in French oak barrels (35 percent one-year-old barrels). “The 2008 Maboroshi Vineyard Pinot Noir is medium red with excellent rose color intensity. The subtle perfume and hints of violet on the nose are followed by full mouth-filling flavors of rose petal and black cherry on the palate. This tasty and beautifully balanced Pinot Noir has a satisfying bigness without losing its elegance and integrity,” stated Damskey.

The wine can be purchased for \$42 at the winery or online at: 8533 Dry Creek Road, Geyserville, CA 95441, or www.dutchercrossingwinery.com.

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