



*Willowbrook*

[www.willowbrookcellars.com](http://www.willowbrookcellars.com)



# About Willowbrook Cellars



Back in 1995, after falling in love with northern California's beautiful wine country, Joe Otos decided to follow his heart and switch careers in order to learn the winemaking trade alongside the renowned Chris Loxton of Wellington Vineyards. Soon proving his talent, Joe was becoming a sought-after up and coming winemaker, making his own small lot wines from local grapes. In 2001 he formed Willowbrook Cellars alongside retired technology entrepreneur John Tracy and retired sales executive Ed Sillari, both of whom had recently moved to Sonoma County to pursue their passion for wine.

Early on, using all the fruit from a premium hilltop vineyard John and his wife Deborah were farming, Willowbrook's production was only about 500 cases, split between Russian River Pinot noir and Chardonnay. The wines were successful. In 2003, Joe began seeking out other small high-quality vineyards in the area, each with its own microclimate and distinctive flavor profiles. This exploration resulted in Willowbrook beginning to produce other varieties such as its Zinfandel and Syrah. It also led to a celebrated long-term collaboration with the renowned Kaufman Sunnyslope vineyard on Sonoma Mountain – producing our acclaimed vineyard-designated wine of the same name.



Today, Willowbrook remains unchanged. Splitting his time between the cellar and vineyards, Joe continues to source premium fruit from some of wine country's most respected grape growers - producing wines which are now gaining national attention. Our Estate Pinot noir is still made solely with fruit from John and Deborah's vineyard and Joe's wines are now well-recognized award winners.

We invite you to taste Joe's work crafting premium wines from some of the region's most prestigious vineyards.



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## **Recent Awards and Accolades**

### **2017 Napa Valley Chardonnay**

*99 Points / Double Gold / Best of Region / Best of Class*

California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition

*Gold Medal*

Sunset International Wine Competition

### **2018 Napa Valley Chardonnay**

*92 Points*

Sunset International Wine Competition

*93 Points*

Just Wine Points

### **2020 Russian River Valley Chardonnay**

*Double Gold*

Sonoma County Harvest Fair





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## **Recent Awards and Accolades**

### **2018 Russian River Valley Pinot noir**

*91 Points*

Sunset International Wine Competition

### **2020 Russian River Valley Pinot noir**

*99 Points*

Just Wine Points

### **2017 Kaufman Sunnyslope Vineyard Sonoma Mountain Pinot noir**

*91 Points*

Wine Enthusiast

### **2018 Kaufman Sunnyslope Vineyard Sonoma Mountain Pinot noir**

*90 Points*

Wine Enthusiast

# Willowbrook Cellars Estate Vineyard



*Burnside Road winds through the picturesque Russian River Valley appellation. Dotted with orchards, family farms and secluded dwellings, it boasts some of northern California's most prized Pinot noir plantings. It is here that our Estate vineyard is located. We have farmed this site outside Sebastopol since 2001, getting to know the land and its micro-climates as each vintage passes.*

*A picturesque three acre site planted to clones 115, Calera and Swan, this cool-climate vineyard benefits from a remarkably long growing season of warm days offset by seasonal fog intruding from the coast at night. This allows the fruit to hang longer, developing depth and richness but maintaining a focused acidity, rarely exceeding 23 brix. We generally pick in the middle of the night to ensure the grapes reach the winery cold and in prime condition. The four separate blocks each require individual attention and the grapes often ripen at different times, giving winemaker Joe Otos ample options to create his layered and complex Pinots.*



DOUBLE  
GOLD  
Sonoma County  
Harvest Fair

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**2020 Chardonnay**

**Russian River Valley**

**Appellation**

Russian River Valley

**Variety**

100% Chardonnay

**Alcohol**

13.9%

**Aging**

French Oak Barrels

**Bottle Size**

750 ml

The Russian River Valley needs no introduction. This historic winegrowing region's warm daytime temperatures give way to cool evening fogs from the river and nearby Pacific, providing an ideal, long growing season for its world-class wines. The dry 2020 vintage produced smaller grapes with unparalleled flavors.



Partially fermented with native yeasts, this textured Chardonnay is a nuanced example of one of the region's signature varietals. Aromas of crème brûlée and citrus peel abound. On the palate the wine deftly combines fresh acidity and subtle creaminess with interwoven flavors of peach and nectarine, complemented by notes of nutmeg. The finish is clean and minerally, yet rich, with lasting impressions of lemon meringue, brioche and marzipan.

While the *Willowbrook 2020 Russian River Valley Chardonnay* is a great stand-alone wine, it pairs naturally with white fish in a buttery sauce or late summer harvest vegetables.

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**2021 Pinot noir**

**Russian River Valley**

**Appellation**

**Russian River  
Valley**

**Variety**

**Pinot noir**

**Alcohol**

**14.3%**

**Aging**

**French Oak  
Barrels**

**Bottle Size**

**750 ml**

The 2021 vintage produced a light crop, but one full of intense color and flavor. Harvested on September 20th and fermented slowly, our **Willowbrook 2021 Russian River Valley Pinot noir** is a wonderful expression of this famous winegrowing region.

Beautiful chocolate-cherry aromas, offset by hints of rose, mushroom and sweet tobacco, introduce a precisely -balanced acidity which gives way to suggestions of forest floor and a striking depth of berry fruits. This is a commanding Pinot with a full mouthfeel well-complemented by structured, nuanced tannins.



Hints of plum, ripe raspberry and Christmas spices mingle on the finish along with vibrant flavors of cassis and vanilla, a product of the wine aging in premium French oak barrels.

This is a natural food-pairing wine and we recommend doing so with lightly-spiced Indian dishes, chicken fajitas or creamy camembert and figs.



# *Willowbrook*



Early morning on  
Sonoma Mountain



Night-time  
harvesting at the  
Estate Vineyard



French Oak  
barrels ready for  
the next vintage



Winemaker Joe  
amongst the Pinot  
noir vines



# Contact Willowbrook Cellars

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