We are very pleased to announce the release of two ‘new’ single-vineyard designated Pinot Noirs from the remarkable 2012 vintage. The Martaella® Vineyard and Tilton Hill® Vineyard join the esteemed Cohn Vineyard Pinot Noir in our collection of estate single-vineyard Pinot Noirs. With lots of hard work, and the contribution of many, the vision of producing three estate-grown Pinot Noirs has been realized with the release of these two wines. We have waited patiently over the last eight years as we developed and precisely farmed these properties, waiting for the vines to produce, and we think the wait has been worth it.

The panoramic Martaella® Vineyard surrounds Benovia® Winery and our visitor center. The vineyard is named after two remarkable women, Martha Anderson and Eleanor Dewane—the mothers of owners Joe Anderson and Mary Dewane. Planted to 10 heritage clones of Pinot Noir, this meticulously farmed property has produced this inaugural Pinot Noir with bright red fruits and rose petal and potpourri aromas.

Perched on a ridge top near the town of Freestone, Tilton Hill® is our coldest vineyard site and lies just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean. The shallow and well-drained soils, known as Goldridge, are nearly perfect for growing Pinot Noir so close to the coastline. The high density planting here has produced a wine with dark fruit aromas and an almost savage intensity, just like the wild Sonoma Coast itself.

“We have waited patiently over the last 8 years as we developed and precisely farmed these properties… and we think the wait has been worth it.”

— MIKE SULLIVAN
Join Us at These Upcoming Events

*Pinot on the River*
October 26, 2014 | Healdsburg, CA  
[www.pinotfestival.com](http://www.pinotfestival.com)

In the heart of the Russian River Valley, you will have the chance to taste many great Pinot Noirs from small, artisan producers who are passionate about Pinot. All produced right here in the greatest Pinot Noir region of the U.S., there will be over 100 wineries pairing wine with artisan food vendors all on the Healdsburg Plaza Square.

*Phoenix Open House*
November 2, 2014 | Phoenix, AZ

A great chance for folks in Arizona to taste the fall release wines, meet other wine lovers and generally have fun on a Sunday afternoon with winery owners Joe Anderson and Mary Dewane. We will email you with more details about three weeks before the event.

*Benovia Fall Open House*
November 8, 2014 | Santa Rosa, CA

Join us for our annual Fall Open House release party on Saturday, November 8th at Benovia Winery. Try the fall release wines, pick up your orders and eat some delicious food.

*Sarasota Fall Open House*
December 3, 2014 | Sarasota, FL

For the first time, we are taking our open house to Florida! Come taste the fall release wines, meet other wine lovers and meet winery owners Joe Anderson and Mary Dewane. We will email you with more details about three weeks before the event.

How to Order

Simply log in to your secure account at [www.BenoviaWinery.com](http://www.BenoviaWinery.com). For your convenience, we have printed your Benovia Account User ID in the upper right-hand corner of the main page.

You can also place your order by calling us at 707-921-1040, or e-mail your order to: Orders@BenoviaWinery.com.

We value your friendship and patronage. If there is anything we can do to make your experience with Benovia more rewarding, please let us know.

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**Jen’s Corner**  
BY JEN WALSH, ASSISTANT WINEMAKER

Many people are surprised when they learn that I drive from the Napa Valley to the Russian River Valley every morning to work at Benovia. “Can’t you just make wine in Napa?” they ask. Most Pinot Noir lovers understand this daily trip to West Sonoma County. From the morning fog that keeps our grapes cool to the unique soils supporting our vineyards, we are fortunate here to have ideal growing conditions for the wines I love to help make and to drink.

The 42-acre Martaella Vineyard surrounding our winery and visitor center is a perfect example. It is no accident that this location makes great Pinot. Sure, we start with an ideal temperature and growing environment, but the vineyard team has worked hard to produce the best possible grapes. This was clear to me on my first day on the job when I drove through the gates to the property. The vineyards are meticulous, with tight vine spacing and row orientation to provide the optimal ripening conditions for our unique selection of heirloom Pinot Noir clones. While these vines certainly do not yield an abundance of fruit, they do provide grapes packed with flavors and aromas.

Now, it’s harvest time at Benovia which means long hours and sticky hands, but it is my favorite time of year. The Martaella Vineyard grapes are being harvested as I write this and soon they will be on their way to becoming great wine. I feel very lucky to drive to this remarkable place every day. It’s a bit of a winemaker’s paradise.

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Jen Walsh is the assistant winemaker at Benovia Winery. This is Jen’s second harvest with Benovia. While her experiences have taken her all over the world, you will find Jen working alongside winemaker Mike Sullivan in the winery adding her talents to producing our extraordinary Benovia wines.
The 2012 growing season can be described as almost textbook perfect for making great wines. A cool dry spring contributed to the vines’ moderate vegetative growth with low mildew and rot pressure all summer. The warm and dry conditions at flowering were ideal for fruit set and the number of berries per cluster was above average—resulting in a larger than normal crop. Summer weather conditions were largely uneven compared to the two previous vintages. We experienced very even ripening among all varietals and the beautiful weather at harvest allowed us to pick each ranch and parcel as it reached optimal ripeness.

The fruit at harvest was flawless with great natural acidity, delineated flavors and intense aromas. The Pinot Noir skins, seeds and stems were all fully ripe and we chose to include more whole clusters than we have in the past, resulting in wines with almost ethereal aromatics and rich textures. Our Chardonnays are equally exciting with stone fruit and citrus blossom aromas and bright mineral-laden acidity.

2012 La Pommeraie Chardonnay $48 | Very Limited

This spectacular vineyard sits along Laguna Ridge at the edge of the Green Valley AVA. Meticulously farmed and planted at a very high density of 2420 vines per acre, the vineyard is planted to Dijon clones 548 and 95. Once a thriving apple orchard, we pay homage to the Martinelli Family and the history of the site by naming the wine ‘La Pommeraie’—French for apple orchard. This intense and concentrated single vineyard Chardonnay begins with vivid aromas of green papaya, pineapple and citrus blossom. The vibrancy of the wine’s aroma is matched by its opulent texture and layered flavors of candied grapefruit and dried apricot with a mineral laden finish. Indigenous yeast fermentation in French oak barrels and extended aging of 16 months on lees has produced a wine with exceptional complexity.

2012 Martaella® Vineyard Pinot Noir $56 | Limited

The first single vineyard Pinot Noir from our estate vineyard at the winery that is named in honor of the mothers of Joe Anderson and Mary Dewane. Only heritage clones of Pinot Noir were chosen for this intense but delicate Pinot Noir and we decided to ferment the grapes with a high percentage of whole clusters (~25%). Deep ruby in color, the vibrant raspberry and cola aromas almost leap from the glass. On the palate, the wine’s juicy mouth feel is supported by ample acidity building with wild berry fruit through the mid-palate to the fine grain tannins on the finish. An intriguing blend of power and restraint, this Pinot Noir is both savory and delicately sweet.

2012 Cohn Vineyard Pinot Noir $70 | Very Limited

This flagship wine is from our oldest estate vineyard that was planted in 1970 and would be considered old by California standards. Planted to a massale selection of Pinot Noir (likely Martini and Pommard) our vineyard outdates other plantings in Russian River by nearly 20 years. We dry-farm these gnarled vines to produce small and compact clusters with tremendous flavor. We harvest the vineyard at night under lights and hand-sort every cluster of fruit from this organically farmed vineyard. A gorgeously intense aroma of spring flowers, Queen Anne cherries with pomegranate fruit and mineral notes, follows the wine’s medium ruby color.

2012 Tilton Hill® Vineyard Pinot Noir $56 | Limited

Perched on a ridge top near the town of Freestone, Tilton Hill® is our coolest vineyard site and lies just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean. The shallow and well drained soils, known as Goldridge, are nearly perfect for growing Pinot Noir so close to the coastline. The high density planting here has produced a wine with dark fruit aromas and an almost savage intensity, just like the wild Sonoma Coast itself. Deep violet in color, this alluring and hedonistic wine has amazing extract and purity of fruit focus. Vibrant fruit aromas of wild strawberry and raspberry soufflé harmonize with sassafras, forest floor and East-Indian spice notes. Heady aromas lead into equally vibrant flavors of Bing cherry, black raspberry and white pepper. On the palate, the juicy red fruits compliment the velvet-like texture and spicy finish.

2012 La Pommeraie Pinot Noir $56 | Very Limited

This ridge top vineyard sits along the neighborhood of Laguna Ridge in the Russian River AVA. Gravenstein apples have given way to newer selections of Pinot Noir from Burgundy; Dijon Pinot Noir clones 777 & 828. This extraordinary single vineyard Pinot Noir gives an immediate impression of depth and concentration in the glass, with remarkably explosive aromas of boysenberry and vine ripened black raspberry. The palate is viscous and rich, yet light on its feet, with fine-polished tannins and an exceptionally balanced acidity. Although delicious upon release, we expect this wine to improve with cellaring for 6–8 years from vintage date.

2012 Sonoma County Zinfandel $38 | Limited

Planted in 1970, this hillside vineyard is on a steep and rocky slope on our estate at the northern end of Russian River Valley. Farmed organically and with minimal irrigation these gnarled vines produce small clusters with incredible fruit intensity. This wine exhibits lively aromas of vine-ripened blackberries, mulberry and baking spices. On the palate, the wine’s exuberant boysenberry fruit is in perfect harmony with bright acidity, fine-grained tannin and a spice-laden finish.®