

Editors' CHOICE

Kosta Browne Winery

SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA-BASED KOSTA Browne Winery (www.kostabrowne.com) was founded in 1997 by Dan Kosta and Michael Browne. The winery produces single vineyard pinot noirs under three appellations – Sonoma Coast, Russian River Valley, and Santa Lucia Highlands.

The first of Kosta Browne's current releases is their 2007 Pinot Noir 4-Barrel vintage. The four barrels are identified from 70 different lots of pinot noir, from which they selected 20 of their most special barrels and narrowed it down to the final four. The wine is complex with layers of berries, warm spices, rich ripe cherries, and sweet lavender with a touch of spice, and is expansive on the palate with many levels of fruit and currants, and traces of dark berry and ripe plum.

Kosta Browne's Pinot Noir-Kanzler Vineyard consists of clones 115, 667, and Pommard, and continues to deliver complexity and strength accompanied by pure pinot noir flavor. The wine boasts focused and intense raspberry and dark berry fruit accented by lavender and lilacs along with pleasing hints of flint and stone that help accentuate the abundance of briary fruit. To the palate, it offers intense blackberry, boysenberry, and blue fruit flavor with gripping acidity, minerals, and cinnamon.

The winery's Pinot Noir-Keefer Ranch rounds out the bunch. Located in the heart of Green Valley, Keefer Ranch has a superb micro-climate, offering just the right amount of warmth during the day and very cool nights, which leads to grapes that produce an intensely red, fruited wine with strong natural acidity and focus. The aroma of sweet cranberries, pomegranate, fresh raspberries, ripe plum, and black cherry dominate the nose, and the front palate delivers succulent Rainier cherries with a slight cola edge while ripe raspberry dominates the mid-palate with a hint of crème brûlée, delivering a creamy, silk-laden finish.

Kosta Browne Winery makes its wines available through a mailing list, although there is currently a waiting list. Wines are shipped to ensure there is no exposure to excessive temperatures so they arrive in the highest quality possible. ●



Kosta Browne's Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2004 (top left); Dan Kosta and Michael Browne (top right); Kanzler Vineyard (right)