

Kokomo Winery

Russian River Valley, Sonoma County, California

I was first exposed to a marvelous Pinot Noir fashioned by Eric Miller of Kokomo Winery at a Newcomers Focus Tasting offered at the 2009 Pinot Days in San Francisco (2006 Kokomo Wines Peters Vineyard Sonoma Coast). This was one of the better Pinot Noirs in the seminar which offered many bright new stars in the Pinot game. Miller, a native of Kokomo, Indiana, studied at University of California at Davis and apprenticed at both Belvedere Winery and Amphora Winery. Along with his best friend and college roommate, Josh Bartels, and partner Randy Peters, a well-known winegrower, he launched Kokomo Winery in 2004 at Timber Crest Farms in Dry Creek Valley, Healdsburg. The Tiber Crest Estate is also home to Amphora Winery, Papapietro Perry Winery, Peterson Winery and Family Wineries Tasting Room. Photo L to R, Randy Peters, Eric Miller, Josh Bartels.



The Kokoma label logo sports a coastal Cypress tree, signifying Miller's move to the West Coast from Indiana. The focus is on Dry Creek Valley, Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast fruit and single-vineyard bottlings. Multiple varietal wines are produced including whites (Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc) and reds (Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Sangiovese and Syrah). Two Pinot Noirs are offered from Peters Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast AVA, and Windsor Oaks Vineyard in the Russian River Valley AVA.

Kokomo wines are sold online at www.kokomowines.com. The winery's tasting room is incorporated into the winery cellar and is open daily from 11-4:30 at 4791 Dry Creek Road in Healdsburg. The phone is 707-433-0200.



2008 Kokomo Peters Vineyard Gopher Hill Block, Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

14.1% alc., 160 cases, \$38. Peters Vineyard was planted on Goldridge sandy loam soil in the early 1980s by Randy Peters. This wine is sourced from a block planted to Wädenswil clone. Aged in 30% new French oak barrels. • Moderately light reddish-purple hue in the glass. Oak-kissed red fruit aromas initially, developing more fruit intensity over time in the glass revealing scents of cherry cobbler. A medium-weighted offering featuring a complex array of flavors including tasty red cherries and berries, Red Vines, earth, tea and leaf. Silky smooth with plenty of charm and delicacy. Good.



2008 Kokomo Peters Vineyard Winemaker's Reserve Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

14.1% alc., 485 cases, \$48. This wine is sourced from a block planted to Pommard clone. 25% whole cluster. Aged in 100% French oak barrels. • Moderately light reddish-purple color in the glass. Toasty oak and spice-infused black cherry aromas really draw you in. A panoply of dark red Pinot fruits coat the mouth with subtle oak, spice and tar singing in the background. Without knowing this wine had whole cluster when I tasted, I picked up immediately on the spice and soft mouth feel that is characteristic of this mode of fermentation. For me, whole cluster, if done right, adds a whole other dimension to a wine. In addition, this wine has silky, soft tannins and complimentary acidity bringing you back for another sip.