

BROOKS NOTE

The Winemaker:

Garry Brooks and his wife Joanne planted a small vineyard in Sonoma in 2002. At the time, both Garry and Joanne were working in Technology. As the vines grew, it became clear (first to Joanne) that Garry's passion was with grapes, rather than with IT. In 2004, after serious soul searching, Garry left the safe and lucrative world of Technology to pursue his dream of making wine.

He started as an intern in the lab at Ravenswood. His first harvest was an eye opener. Long hours, physical work, and coming home exhausted late at night. Garry was hooked. He stayed on at Ravenswood part time while he went back to school, eventually getting a bachelor's degree in Viticulture and Enology from UC Davis 2007.

He moved to Kosta Browne as the Enologist in 2008, working with Michael Browne and Shane Finley. He learned to make exceptional quality, small batch Pinot's at Kosta Browne, and was part of the team that helped produce their 2009 Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, which was Wine Spectator's wine of the year in 2011. He then used those skills as the Assistant Winemaker at Dutton Goldfield, where he was introduced to the vineyards of Marin.

While apprenticing with exceptional winemakers by day, Garry was making Pinot and Rose for friends and family in his garage at night – sometimes very late at night. He dreamed of making Pinot Noir from vineyards off the beaten path, like those near his home in breezy, coastal Marin and the higher elevations of the Yorkville Highlands in Mendocino. Garry (Brooks) and his wife Joanne (Note) started their own label with the 2011 harvest.

Garry's love of winemaking starts in the vineyard. His goal is to allow the vineyards to express themselves through the wine. He sorts by hand, and allows a short cold soak with a native start to fermentation. He does the punch downs, pressing, barreling and racking. His intimate knowledge of the wine ensures the exceptional quality of the final product. There is a hint of oak, but the fruit and spice from the vineyard shines through. Brooks Note wines show ripeness and intensity of flavor, and are supported by an elegant structure and balanced acidity.



Garry and Joanne Brooks at Weir Vineyard, 2014



Sophia & Abby showing off the barrels, 2012