



### **2015 Napa Valley Pinot Meunier, Yount Mill Vineyard**

While having dinner with the Hoxey family, who own the historic Yount Mill Vineyard, we overheard a discussion of Pinot Meunier. It was planted for Mumm sparkling. We kicked each other under the table and immediately asked if we could please have some fruit. Still red wine made from Pinot Meunier is rare, and can make very earthy wine when grown in France. What would it taste like in Napa? As lovers of the wonderful diversity of grape varieties we needed to find out. Turns out it is delicious.

The Pinot Meunier is truly earthy and mineral, a prized characteristic here in sunny Napa, where the wines normally run fruitier, but it has tantalizing blue fruits as well, and a refreshing bright backbone of acidity and lively structure.

The wine was fermented with 50% whole clusters in a small open top tank, with two manual punch downs per day. We pressed after 14 days on the skins and aged the wine in neutral Burgundy barrels for 10 months.

The pH is 3.65, the TA is 6.4 g/l, and the alcohol is only 11.1%. 196 cases were made.

### **The Vineyard**

The Yount Mill Vineyard was one of the first certified organic vineyards in Napa Valley—they never stopped farming organically back in the post-war period when folks started using the new-fangled chemicals. Located in deep soil near the Napa River, the vines are mostly dry-farmed, and tended with minimal intervention—they are allowed to grow a little wild. The cool winds are drawn up the valley over the vineyard, allowing white grapes to maintain their vibrant freshness.