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DUCKHORN WINE COMPANY ACQUIRES 70-ACRE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR VINEYARD

The property establishes an estate vineyard for the company's Migration Winery, and will become a key element of the Migration Pinot Noir program.

NAPA VALLEY, Calif. – October 6, 2014 – On August 21st, Duckhorn Wine Company acquired a 70-acre Pinot Noir vineyard on River Road in the Russian River Valley. Originally planted by Silverado Premium Properties in the 1980s, the vineyard was purchased from J. Winery. The property features 69.8 acres and multiple clones of Pinot Noir, and will become an estate property for Migration, Duckhorn Wine Company's Russian River Valley-focused Chardonnay and Pinot Noir winery. As part of the acquisition, Migration will harvest all fruit from the property in 2014, with these grapes becoming an integral part of the Migration Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

Though originally planted in the early 1980s, Mills Vineyard was replanted in 2000 and 2006 to a careful selection of top Pinot Noir clones, featuring 667, 777, 828, 115, Pommard and Calera. These clones were planted at a higher density than the original plantings in the vineyard's fertile Yolo loam soils, with an ideal row direction to ensure even sun exposure on both sides of the canopy. Located in Forestville, Mills Vineyards' neighbors include Williams Selyem, Gary Farrell and Rochioli to the north, and Lynmar Estate, Joseph Swan Vineyards and Kistler Vineyards to the south.

"This is a phenomenal vineyard, planted in an ideal location," says Migration Winemaker Bo Felton. "With vines at eight and 14 years old, planted and farmed using the finest modern viticultural techniques, it is also a vineyard entering its prime. Not only will Mills immediately become an important part of our Russian River Valley Pinot Noir, it has the pedigree and potential to make an exceptional vineyard-designate wine in the near future."

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Migration expects to harvest roughly 6 tons of Pinot Noir from each of Mills Vineyard's ten distinctive blocks during the 2014 harvest. These grapes will represent Migration's first estate fruit. "This is a really exciting moment for us" says Duckhorn Wine Company President and CEO Alex Ryan. "With the acquisition of Mills Vineyard, all six of our wineries now have at least one estate property. Since the early days of Duckhorn Vineyards almost 40 years ago, combining estate fruit with grapes from top growers has always been a cornerstone of our winemaking philosophy. This is a philosophy we have carried on at Goldeneye, Paraduxx, Decoy and most recently Canvasback in Washington State. Having a vineyard of this caliber at the heart of Migration's Pinot Noir program represents the start of a great new chapter in the Migration story."

About Duckhorn Wine Company

Duckhorn Wine Company has helped set the standard for American fine wine for almost four decades. Founded with the launch of Duckhorn Vineyards in 1976, Duckhorn Wine Company has evolved to include Goldeneye, Paraduxx, Migration, Decoy and Canvasback, and features a unique company structure that includes six dedicated winemakers. Combining acclaimed estate vineyards in California's Napa Valley, Sonoma County, Anderson Valley and Washington State's Red Mountain, with grapes from the finest growers, each winery is presented with its own canvas of lots from which to make its wines. Duckhorn Wine Company wines are available throughout the United States, on five continents, and in 45 countries. For more information, visit Duckhorn.com.

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