



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORI EANES

Terry Bering

A PASSION FOR PINOT

“There is no doubt about it, I’m a Pinot nut,” says Terry Bering by way of introduction. “Pinot Noir accounts for 99 percent of the wine I’ve ever consumed.” When Bering began making homemade wine in his friend’s Healdsburg carport in 1983, he actually produced Cabernet Sauvignon but, following his passion, promptly converted to Pinot Noir. And when a friend introduced him to legendary Pinot producer Tom Rochioli, he didn’t hesitate to trade his real estate job for cellar work at J. Rochioli Vineyards in Healdsburg. Bering honed his winemaking skills with the help of his mentor and became cellar master in 1990. In 1992, he started his own label, Castalia Wines, purchasing grapes from Rochioli. Bering crafts his Pinot Noir “Rochioli Vineyard” from a special hillside block with small yields and highly concentrated fruit. As a result, the wine displays full-bodied density and rich flavors redolent with cherries.

The name Castalia refers to the legendary spring on Mount Parnassus in ancient Greece that was favored by Apollo. Those who drank from the mythical waters received the gifts of poetry and inspiration. “Every time my friends and I drink Castalia Pinot Noir, we gain knowledge and espouse something important,” Bering explains, adding with a smile, “at least it seems important at the time.”