

## **Founded**

2007

## **Winemaker**

Michael Accurso

## **Wines**

Pinot Noir, "Les Pommiers"  
Chardonnay, "Brumaire"  
Amber Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir  
Northern Spy Vineyard Pinot Noir  
Marty's Vineyard Pinot Noir  
Saxon Priest Vineyard Pinot Noir

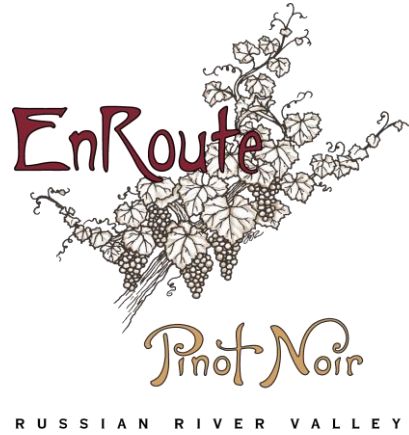
Inspired by the joint passions for Pinot Noir and the unique climate and terroir of Sonoma's Russian River Valley, EnRoute was founded in 2007 by Far Niente Wine Estates. Located in the heart of the Russian River Valley, the Winery is dedicated to cultivating world-class California Pinot Noirs.

Named as an homage to the team's continuous pursuit of excellence in Pinot Noir, EnRoute marries the winemaking pedigree of Far Niente with pristine grapes grown throughout the Russian River Valley. Relying on organic farming principles, Director of Winemaking Michael Accurso crafts a range of stylish and graceful single-site Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Rosé wines in addition to its flagship "Les Pommiers" Pinot Noir blend.

EnRoute's "Les Pommiers" Pinot Noir is named for the apple orchards that once flourished in the region and reflects a blend of vineyards primarily from the Green Valley of the Russian River Valley appellation. Inspired by a few special, individual lots used to comprise the "Les Pommiers" blend, in 2013, EnRoute introduced single-vineyard Pinot Noir wines.

Far Niente has always believed that vineyard ownership is key to producing the best fruit possible for their wines. In the search for the finest parcels of Pinot Noir, it purchased the pedigreed Amber Ridge Vineyard, located in the upper Middle Reach area of the Russian River Valley. EnRoute later acquired an abandoned apple orchard in Graton, which was developed into Northern Spy Vineyard in the Green Valley of the Russian River Valley AVA. Each vineyard is farmed using impeccable standards according to organic principles, the cultivation of distinct Pinot Noir clones particularly suited to each site and low-yields.

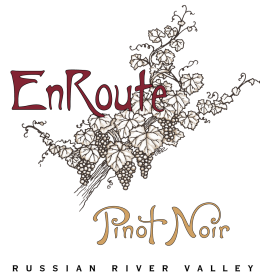
In the winery, each vineyard is separated by either block or clone and fermented



in individual vessels ranging from 2-6 tons. This micro-lot fermentation allows for optimal site expression and helps develop the core of the “Les Pommiers” blend while keeping vineyards designate wines separate as well. For the aging process, EnRoute carefully selects barrel coopers from France in order to create the perfect marriage of spice and toast while enhancing the fruit profile.

### **About Far Niente Wine Estates**

Far Niente Wine Estates is a family of California wineries linked by a joint mission: To produce world-class wines representative of their home vineyards and grape varieties. Built around Oakville’s Far Niente Estate, originally established by John Benson in 1885, Far Niente Wine Estates is committed to elevating California’s finest terroirs through precision winemaking and conscientious farming. Abandoned during Prohibition, the original Oakville estate was restored by the Nickel family, and resumed wine production in 1982. Preserving and expanding the Napa legacy that began on this land over 135 years ago inspired Far Niente Wine Estates to gradually expand in the Napa and Russian River Valleys. The family of wineries includes several Cabernet Sauvignon-focused wineries including single-vineyard Cabernet pioneer Nickel & Nickel; the blend-focused Bella Union estate in Rutherford; and Post and Beam, a winery inspired by the America’s iconic post and beam barns, and dedicated to crafting equally long-lived, classic wines. Far Niente Wine Estates also includes EnRoute, a Russian River Valley estate devoted to world-class Pinot Noir; and Dolce, America’s leading late-harvest dessert wine.



## Michael Accurso Biography - Head Winemaker, EnRoute Winery

In 2018, Michael Accurso took the helm as winemaker for Bella Union in Napa Valley and EnRoute Winery in the Russian River Valley. Born and raised in the Napa Valley, Michael's passion for wine came naturally and his depth of experience in both the cellar and the vineyards gives him unique insight into winemaking. In 2021, Michael became the head winemaker for Far Niente's Post & Beam. Brooke Bobyak took over as the winemaker for Bella Union.

Over his career, Michael has had the fortune to work in a variety of regions, both domestically and abroad—from the Napa Valley and Russian River Valley, to Mendocino, Paso Robles and even Argentina.

Before joining the Far Niente Family of Wineries and Vineyards, Michael spent four years at Goldeneye Winery, first as the Assistant Winemaker before ultimately rising the ranks to the title of Winemaker.

Michael's experience working with Pinot Noir in the cool climate Anderson Valley at Goldeneye informs his skill for making Pinot Noir in the Russian River Valley today. Michael obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business, with a minor in Wine in Viticulture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2010.

