



ALQUIMISTA CELLARS

CORE MESSAGES FOR MEDIA

Alquimista is a burgeoning, artisanal winery from partners Greg La Follette and Patrick Dillon that aims to craft benchmark cool-climate Pinot noir and Chardonnay.

Greg La Follette has built his career crafting some of California's most distinctive Pinot noirs, including at such well-known wineries as Flowers and DeLoach, and has consulted internationally. His partnership with **Patrick Dillon** set the stage for this exciting new winery by allowing the partners to get back to the roots of world-class winemaking.

- A self-proclaimed “Pinot Disciple” Greg is able with this new venture to narrow his winemaking focus to his first love, Pinot noir—and small-lot Chardonnay.
- With Alquimista, Greg and Patrick have narrowed their focus to a handful of only the very best cool-climate vineyards, working with successful growers whose approach complements the winery's vision.

As winemakers, Greg & Patrick embrace the French concept of “*elevage*” to a degree rarely seen in California to create vibrant, balanced Pinot noir and Chardonnay.

- “Elevage” means gently nurturing a wine along through its various stages, starting in the vineyard. It is truly “raising” the wine, much as one raises a child. It is a practice that demands inordinate time, patience and a good degree of faith.
- Greg La Follette is as strongly identified with viticultural expertise as winemaking skill and has developed some of the most renowned growing sites in Sonoma County.
- Greg & Patrick espouse winemaking techniques and practices that are time-consuming and meticulous, such as lees management, barrel fermentation and selection, and hand-plunging fermentations in open-topped repurposed dairy tanks which are difficult and laborious to use but give unparalleled surface-to-volume ratio for skin extraction management.

Alquimista wines are born of exceptional vineyard sites, each carefully selected for unique character and intense regional expression.

- Alquimista wines offer a true tour of terroir, showcasing renowned vineyard sites of the Russian River Valley, Sonoma Coast, Sonoma Mountain and Mendocino AVAs.
- Alquimista produces five vineyard-designate and one Russian River AVA Pinot noirs and four vineyard-designate Chardonnays.
- Alquimista Manchester Ridge Pinot noir is neither Old World nor New World but an intriguing combination—truly its own definition of Pinot.

Greg La Follette, an artist and a scientist, believes that complexity in wine is not an accident. Rather, a true artistic creation such as wine is possible when deep scientific knowledge sets the stage for experimentation and intuition.

- Greg's first love was music and he brings an artist's sensibility to his winemaking.
- Greg has delved more deeply than most into the science behind winemaking, including extensive research into the scientific components of mouthfeel and what makes yeasts “tick.”
- The rich, complex palette available to him when he crafts his wines is the result of his expertise in viticulture and winemaking.