

2-Pack: Donum – A Study in Artistic Patronage

\$95 For the Pair (*normally \$140 for the pair*)

Winery as investment can go one of two ways: form over function disaster or, great talent supported by an infusion of capital. Donum's story follows the latter. The winery was begun by Anne Moller-Racke in 2001; the original holdings and current nucleus span 200 acres in Carneros. Anne had been working in the valley since the mid 1990s; she founded Donum with the intent of creating sustainably farmed, single-vineyard Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The project caught the eye and palate of Danish businessman Allan Warburg and his wife Mei – who met and live in China - and they began collecting the wines. Allan's brother is a wine importer in Denmark, when Donum was listed for sale, he alerted Allan and Mei; the couple closed on the property in 2011. The couple never had designs on being winemakers, rather, they are stewards of the winery and the land that supports it. As with all good patrons throughout history, the Warburgs facilitate the winemaking team to continue making regenerative-organic, terroir-focused wines. Along the way, the art-loving couple embarked on an artistic project of giant proportions: The Donum Collection - one of the largest private sculpture collections in the world. The Collection includes works by Ai Wiewie, Louise Bourgeois, and Yayoi Kusama. The winery consists of the original Estate vineyard and has grown to include four additional, Regenerative Organic Certified, vineyards. The dedication to exquisite fruit quality is clear in every wine they produce.



Carneros Chardonnay 2022 (*regularly \$65*)

Carneros' terroir is particularly suited to the production of Chardonnay; as such, though most of their production is Pinot Noir, they allotted premier plots in their Estate vineyard to the grape. The plots are interspersed among the 120 acres of the home Estate that are under vine. This wine is fermented with native yeasts predominantly in French oak with a small portion in concrete. The resulting wine is well balanced, providing suppleness while maintaining a backbone of energy.

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2022 (*regularly \$75*)

Planted in 1997, the Ten Oaks Vineyard was acquired by Donum in 2013. The vineyard is planted with four primary clones of Pinot Noir: the prestigious Pommard and Dijon as well as the local Calera and the winery's own Donum. It is in a warmer microclimate in the heart of the Russian River Valley AVA; a location that yields a riper, powerful style of Pinot with well-defined structure. This cuvée is from hand-selected blocks within the vineyard that have been individually fermented in open-top stainless-steel tanks. The blocks remain separated throughout malolactic fermentation and a 16-month aging in French oak – 57% new; they are blended prior to bottling. The 2022 vintage exhibits notes of ripe stone fruit and raspberries with hints of cocoa and a slate stone minerality.