

The Silver Lining

You've gotta love a wine label that screams "There's a story here!" For winemaker Bradley Cooper and wife Audralee, the name 'Black Cloud' is an exceedingly apropos title for their exceptional Pinot Noir...and yes, the story this wine tells is a good one, right down to the happy ending.

'Once upon a time there were two talented wine consultants who were commissioned to craft a very special Pinot Noir.

The first twist in the tale occurred in the growing period, when the grapes for this wine had to survive very difficult growing conditions. These vines were tested, but still, many managed to survive and even thrive. This perhaps was even a good thing as vines that suffer can often offer up fruit that is very special and prized. As luck would have it, this fruit was good - it was very, very good!

But, of course, the story didn't end there. Our characters had yet to be really tested. This came when the client they were consulting for fell under a black cloud of his own, a financial one, and promptly left town - leaving behind our characters and barrels of un-bottled, though spectacular Pinot Noir.



What were the consultants to do? This is where our characters needed a little (actually a lot) of good fortune. As a long time winemaker, Bradley Cooper knew turning barreled wine into a marketable bottled product takes money, and at the time, they just didn't have quite the resources required.

Enter Mike Raffan, owner of Township 7 Winery, for whom Bradley had crafted numerous award-winning wines. Raffan believed in Cooper and his wine and agreed to short term finance the completion of this project. Light was beginning to appear at the end of the tunnel.

The wine finally found its way to bottle and those who sampled it gave cheer to it's fine character. A wine they say born of a Black Cloud, but with a future that is likely lined with Silver...or perhaps even Gold!



Follow the continuing tale of the
new cult-wine, Black Cloud at
www.steepcreek.blogspot.com