FERRY PLAZA WINE·MERCHANT

FLIGHT NIGHT FEATURING:

FREEMAN

VINEYARD & WINERY

WITH **KEN & AKIKO FREEMAN**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026 • 1PM - 4PM



Join us at Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant as we welcome Ken & Akiko Freeman for a tasting of Freeman Winery's Chardonnay and Pinot Noirs—and the story of a shared passion that became a life in wine.

Ken and Akiko met in 1985, thanks to a chance encounter brought about by Hurricane Gloria, which interrupted Ken's sailing trip. They discovered a shared love of graceful, refined Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, and over time began pursuing a dream: making California wines that expressed the elegance and complexity they admired in Burgundy.

That pursuit led them to western Sonoma County, where cool coastal conditions offered the setting for their vision. After considering more than 300 potential sites, they purchased a small winery near Sebastopol in 2001 and established Freeman Vineyard & Winery. Rather than emphasizing power and ripeness, they sought wines of balance, nuance, and a clear sense of place.

Their estate vineyards followed. In 2005, Ken and Akiko acquired an apple orchard beside the winery, planting it the following year as Gloria Estate Vineyard. The name honors both the former owner of the orchard and the hurricane that first brought them together. Set at the cool western edge of the Russian River Valley, Gloria became an important expression of the couple's commitment to cool-climate Pinot Noir.

At the heart of Freeman's wines is Akiko Freeman; Akiko honed her craft alongside Ed Kurtzman before taking the helm as winemaker, bringing her own vision to Freeman's wines. Her approach emphasizes delicacy, refinement, and the character of fruit from the Russian River Valley and West Sonoma Coast—giving the couple's original inspiration a distinctly Californian expression.

For this tasting, we'll explore five wines, from Ryo-Fu Chardonnay to regional Pinot Noirs and the Gloria Estate and Akiko's Cuvée bottlings. Come experience cool-climate vineyards and restrained style that set Freeman apart—and enjoy the rare pleasure of talking through each pour with Ken and Akiko themselves.

The flight wines are served as two-ounce pours & 5-oz glasses.
$35 PER PERSON / $30 FOR WINE CLUB MEMBERS

- 2024 Freeman Chardonnay Ryo-Fu, Russian River Valley—$52.50
- 2024 Freeman Pinot Noir, West Sonoma Coast—$45.75
- 2024 Freeman Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley—$45.75
- 2021 Freeman Pinot Noir, Gloria Estate, Green Valley of Russian River—$59
- 2021 Freeman Pinot Noir, Akiko's Cuvée, West Sonoma Coast—$69

IF QUANTITIES ALLOW, THE FLIGHT WINES WILL BE ON SALE
FOR THE DAY AT 15% OFF TO THOSE WHO PURCHASE A FLIGHT.