



SONOMA-CUTRER®

Winemaker's Release

VINTAGE 2017 • VINE HILL FLANC DE COTEAU BLOCS

OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

Harvest 2017 was quite the year for winemaking in California and provided Sonoma-Cutrer with another great vintage of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir fruit. The historic drought which has plagued the region for several harvests was broken in a big way with almost twice the normal rainfall during the growing season!

The pace of growing started off about two weeks behind normal, but an unusually warm June and July brought us back to normal progression of vine development. The month of August brought cooler weather and the return of fog slowing the ripening of fruit. The first Pinot Noir was picked on August 22nd and the last of the fruit arrived at the winery on September 22nd.

OUR VINE HILL ESTATE VINEYARD

Our Vine Hill Vineyard, in the heart of the Russian River Valley, provided the fruit for this vintage and grapes were specifically selected from our highest elevation, hillside blocks for this Winemaker's Release. Vine Hill Vineyard, with its more than 400-ft. elevation change, allows each ridge, slope, and valley in the vineyard to contribute unique characteristics to the grapes. Combined with a variety of soils, clones and rootstocks that limit excessive vine growth, the vineyards provide a beautiful variety of elegant and balanced fruit.

ON THE WINE

Our fruit was hand-picked at night under lights and transported to our separate Pinot Barn facility. Grapes were hand-sorted before a gentle destemming. At the winery, the fruit was cold soaked, punched down and fermented using three different techniques specifically selected for this Winemaker's Release bottling. First, we used an unusual technique called submerged cap, which as the name suggests, keeps the grape skins held beneath the surface of the fermenting wine. The second was to cold soak and ferment in French oak barrels and the third was traditional fermentation in small, open top, stainless fermenters. After fermentation, the individual components were barrel aged in 100% French oak barrels with the wood sourced solely from the Gauthier family mill. We have worked with this family for over twenty five years, sourcing trees from unique, individual French oak forests. After maturing for 16 months, the final blend was assembled and bottled. The wine was then allowed to rest and evolve for six months in the bottle.

The first thing you notice about this Vine Hill Pinot Noir is its beautiful, reddish-purple color. On the nose, complex aromas of dark blackberry and black ripe plum fruit mingle with provocative juniper spice, cinnamon, cedar wood and earth notes. This is a well-structured Pinot Noir offering good oak integration and firm, polished tannins. The flavors in this wine offer an expanse of savory tension and complexity that round out to lively fresh acidity with a juicy lingering finish. While this wine is drinking beautifully now, it will continue to benefit from another two to four years of bottle age.



Alcohol: 14.4% • **TA:** 6.4 gms/L • **pH:** 3.5 • **RS:** Dry
100% Pinot Noir

Vineyard Designation: Vine Hill

Fermentation: Stainless steel tank, cold soak oak fermentation and submerged cap

French Oak Aged: 16 months in wood sourced by the Gauthier family

Please enjoy our wines responsibly.

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- Sonoma-Cutrer's Winemaker Release is a series of limited-production wines that showcase the artisan craftsmanship and innovation of Sonoma County's premier winery.
- All of the fruit for this wine was picked from our *Flanc De Coteau Blocs* or hillside blocks of our Vine Hill Vineyard.
- Three unique styles of fermentation were used to craft the final blend of this wine.
- This wine was 100% French oak aged in barrels that have been under Sonoma-Cutrer's control since the trees were selected.



Vine Hill Flanc de Coteau Blocs Production Specifications

SKU: 40009022

Case Configuration: 6 bottle case

2017 Vintage: 14.4% ABV

Closure: Screw cap

Pallet: 88

1 Layer: 22

4 Layers to Pallet

Case OD L: 10.56", W: 7.25", H: 12.25",

Case Weight: 17.3 lbs

Pallet Weight: 1522 lbs

Bottle EAN/UPC: 769611000020

Case SCC: 10769611100345

Total 9 Liter Case Production: 1.177

SONOMA-CUTRER

Deep in the heart of the Russian River Valley lies Vine Hill, one of Sonoma-Cutrer's six estate vineyards. It is from the highest elevation blocks here that we chose the fruit to blend this Winemaker's Release. Low fruit yields, the cool coastal fog and unique barrel fermentation provide us an exquisite, complex wine of bold richness.

Mick Schroeter
Mick Schroeter, Winemaker

Estate Bottled By SONOMA-CUTRER VINEYARDS,
WINDSOR, CA., 750mL CONTAINS SULFITES
RESPONSIBILITY.org

80% FPO

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GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) ACCORDING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, WOMEN SHOULD NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS. (2) CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE A CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY, AND MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS.