



VINE HILL PINOT NOIR

VINTAGE 2018 • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY • ESTATE BOTTLED

OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

One of the coolest things about growing grapes and making wine is that no single year is the same. Every new harvest brings its own set of unique challenges. In 2018, we saw a return to below average rainfall for the year. However, late spring rains kicked-off the growing season with a great start. As we moved into the summer months, the temperatures warmed up giving our fruit a chance to develop nicely. August and early September brought a wild swing to the weather with very cool temperatures and foggy conditions.

Our harvest started almost two weeks later than normal with the first fruit finally arriving from our Vine Hill Ranch on September 2nd. After the slow start, the pace picked up and we completed harvest quickly. All in all, the Pinot harvest was pretty normal with cool foggy mornings followed by bright, sunny, warm afternoons. This proved to be the perfect climate for our fruit and, once again, the Russian River Valley lived up to its reputation as one of the best places in the world to grow Pinot Noir giving us elegant flavor and bright, natural acidity.

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 nearly 300-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

Grapes were picked by hand early each morning into small bins and hand-sorted before a gentle destemming. During the four-day cold soak and the eight-to-twelve-day fermentation, the wine was punched down by hand in small, open-top fermenters. Once ready, the wine was gently pressed using a basket press and gravity-racked into barrels. The aging process for our Pinot Noir utilizes a regimen of one-third each new, once-used, and twice-used French oak. After aging in barrel for fourteen months, the final blend was assembled for bottling on Nov 19, 2019 and allowed to evolve in bottle for an additional six months.

The first thing you notice about our Vine Hill Pinot Noir is its beautiful, reddish-purple color. This vintage offers aromas of sweet red cherries, dark chocolate and baking spices mingled with hints of cedar wood, sweet vanilla and aromatic juniper spice. This is a medium to full-bodied Pinot Noir that is well-structured with 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 2-4 years of bottle age.

Alc by Vol.: 14.3% • TA: 6.43 gms/L • pH: 3.56 • RS: Dry • 100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard Designation: Vine Hill Ranch
Fermentation: 100% Stainless steel tank • 100% Malolactic
French Oak aged for a total of 14 months – 33% New, 33% 1 yr., 33% 2 yr.



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