



2016 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

ORIGIN: This wine displays the complex, concentrated and fruit-driven style of Pinot Noir that exemplifies the Russian River Valley. To craft this wine, we work with a handful of top vineyards including our own Thale's Estate Vineyard in the Middle Reach of Russian River Valley. The blend also includes fruit from the Dutton family's Winkler property, which is in the cool Green Valley region, along with grapes from Cummings Vineyard in Santa Rosa Plains.

VINEYARD NOTES: The 2016 vintage had warm temperatures that made harvest look like it would come early. A cool spell in August slowed everything down enabling the fruit to ripen evenly and to full maturity without sugars being too high. The vineyards were farmed meticulously in order to keep the vigorous canopy that develops in the Russian River Valley's famed Goldridge soils balanced. As a result, the pure fruit and clarity of our Russian River Valley vineyards shines through in this wine. The fruit was hand-harvested on three different days: August 31st, September 12th and September 13th, of 2016. The three distinct harvest dates reflect the individual nature of each site, and what each lends to the complexity of this wine.

WINEMAKING NOTES: The fruit was picked as whole clusters and brought to the winery in half-ton Macro Bins. It was then hand-sorted and gently destemmed into our I-ton Super T fermenters. The skins of the fruit were punched down twice a day during fermentation to achieve maximum color and flavor extraction, with minimal harsh tannins from the seeds. When primary fermentation was complete, the wine was pressed from the skins into French oak barrels from a number of different cooperages, 32% of which were new, with 24% one-year old. The final blend was assembled prior to bottling, which occurred August 1st, 2017.

TASTING NOTES: From its vibrant ruby-red color to its alluring aromas of black cherry, clove, cardamom and cinnamon spice, this is a bright and enticing expression of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir. On the palate, firm, velvety tannins underscore generous layers of berry fruit that glide to a long, lush finish!

This vintage produced 25 barrels, 641 (750 ml) cases.

