



# Founders Reserve

VINTAGE 2022 · RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY · PINOT NOIR

The Founders Reserve Pinot Noir is a unique blend sourced from the highest elevation blocks of our estate vineyards, crafted from the winemakers' finest barrel selections of the vintage. Employing a nearly forgotten technique known as the "submerged cap," this full-bodied wine unveils exceptional depth and complexity.

#### VINTAGE OBSERVATIONS

Here we go again! After what looked like a promising season last fall, the first three months of the year became California's driest on record, marking the third year of mega-drought. As in past drought years, we closely monitored vine needs and soil moisture. Fortunately, a mild spring and summer, along with a beautiful August and the return of fog, helped us navigate this challenging season.

#### VINEYARD SOURCING

Our Owsley and Vine Hill vineyards in the Russian River Valley provided the Pinot Noir for this vintage. The Owsley ranch's dramatic temperature shifts from warm days to cool, foggy nights yield grapes with concentrated, complex flavors. Vine Hill's elevation changes of over 400 feet allow each ridge, slope and valley to impart unique characteristics to the grapes.

#### WINEMAKING PROCESS

Grapes were hand-picked early each morning into small bins, then hand-sorted and gently destemmed. The wine underwent a four-day cold soak followed by eight to twelve days of fermentation, with hand punch-downs in small, open-top fermenters. After fermentation, it was gently basket pressed and gravity racked into barrels, where it aged for 14 months before the final blend was assembled and bottled.

#### TASTING NOTES

This vintage opens with aromas of blackberry and black cherry, enriched by dark chocolate, a touch of vanilla and subtle notes of lavender, clove and cardamom, layered over earthy undertones. The palate is full-bodied, with flavors of dark fruit and baking spices that deepen with each sip, revealing a textured and complex structure. A juicy mid-palate and finely integrated tannins suggest the wine will continue to evolve with age.

**COMPOSITION:** 100% PINOT NOIR

**VINEYARDS:** 53% VINE HILL, 47% OWSLEY

**FERMENTATION:** 100% OAK

**BARREL AGING:** AGED FOR 14 MONTHS IN FRENCH OAK, 33% NEW

**ALCOHOL:** 14.5% · **TOTAL ACIDITY:** 6.11 G/L · **PH:** 3.51

