



VINE HILL PINOT NOIR

VINTAGE 2019 • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY • ESTATE BOTTLED

OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

In 2019 the rains came and...came. With almost double the average rainfall combined with late spring rains the season got off to a late & slow start. No extremes during the summer, just superb California weather that set the stage for a great year and growing season.

The Pinot Noir harvest began about a week later than normal and, as usual, we started at our Vine Hill Ranch with fruit from Block BB on September 2nd. Once we got going, the fruit came in at a fast clip with near perfect ripening conditions prevailing. The pace had us finish at a near record of just over four weeks. The long, even hang time for the fruit has yielded a true classic Pinot Noir vintage.

OUR VINE HILL ESTATE VINEYARD

Our Vine Hill Vineyard, in the heart of the Russian River Valley, 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 18, 2020.

The beautiful, reddish-purple color of Vine Hill Pinot Noir perfectly pairs with the aromas of sweet red cherries, ripe plum and sweet baking spices that it evokes. Bright, hints of blueberry, cedar wood and sweet vanilla are found just beneath the surface of this aromatic wine. A full, intense body Pinot Noir that is well-structured with firm, polished tannins, the flavors on the palate offer an expanse of savory tension and complexity that round out to lively fresh acidity with a long, lingering finish. This robust vintage of Vine Hill will pair well with a well-marbled cut of beef, duck confit or wild mushroom risotto.

Alcohol By Volume 14.1% • TA: 6.4 gms/L • pH: 3.4 • 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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