



VINE HILL PINOT NOIR

VINTAGE 2020 • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY • ESTATE BOTTLED

OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

Just when we thought a harvest could not get any more challenging – along comes 2020! The year started off with an emerging drought, then in March, Covid hit forcing us to rethink how we would continue to operate while keeping our employees safe. About the time we were getting used to our new ways of working and gearing up for harvest, August rolls in bringing with it a heat wave, freak dry lightning storms and raging wildfires.

Amid much uncertainty, we began our Pinot Noir harvest on August 19th at Vine Hill Ranch. Despite all the additional challenges and stress that this year brought to our winemaking efforts, 2020, just like every year before it, worked out. Best of all, we are thrilled with the quality and style of this year's vintage. Let's all raise a glass and bid this year adieu!

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 vineyard provides 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 December 8, 2021.

You will notice intense, bright fruit aromas showcasing black raspberry, dark ripe cherries with just a touch of spiced licorice and anise as this gorgeous, reddish-purple Vine Hill Pinot Noir is poured into your glass. Inspect closer and you will find obscure, interesting touches of black leaf tea, sweet oak and spice. This vintage offers excellent balance between structure and volume with a core of juicy fruit that highlights loads of cherry and uplifting spice. This is an intense and bright expression of Vine Hill Pinot Noir that finishes with very fine, elegant tannins. This vintage is ready to drink now or can be allowed to cellar for another 2 years.

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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