



## LES PLUS HAUT PINOT NOIR VINTAGE 2021 • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

### OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW VINTAGE

And here we go again!

With only a third of our normal rainfall and a fairly dry spring, all of California is enduring a historic drought. As in other drought years, our vineyard team prioritized careful monitoring of the vine needs & soil moisture which got us through a difficult season.

A huge benefit was a perfect spring and summer season with no weather extremes. This was followed by a typical cool down the first half of August and then perfect ripening weather throughout the entire harvest. We started our Pinot harvest a little later than normal with grapes from Vine Hill on August 30th. With the perfect conditions, harvest was steady all the way through with the last fruit from Owsley arriving at the winery on October 6th.

### OUR WINEMAKER'S RELEASE PROGRAM

Our Winemaker's Release is a series of wines that showcase our commitment to artisan craftsmanship and unique, high-quality production practices. This collection of wines under one umbrella are produced annually in extremely low quantities that further our reputation as one of Sonoma County's premier wineries.

Les Plus Haut translates to "the most elevated" and the highest blocks from each of our vineyards provided the fruit for this wine. The Owsley ranch, with its dramatic temperature changes from warm days to cool, foggy nights, creates concentrated and complex flavors in the grapes. Vine Hill vineyard, with its more than 300-foot elevation change, allows each ridge, slope, and valley in the vineyard to contribute unique characteristics to the grapes.

### ON THE WINE

Grapes are 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 is punched down by hand in small, open-top fermenters. On completion of fermentation, the wine is gently basket pressed and gravity racked into the barrels. We aged this Pinot Noir in a regimen of one-third each of new, one-year and two-year old French oak. After resting for 14 months, the final blend was assembled and prepared for bottling. It was then allowed to rest and evolve in the bottle at our winery for an additional six months.

This profound and complex Pinot Noir is an intense, beautiful garnet hue. Deep aromas of blackberry, black cherry, dark chocolate with hints of vanilla and a spicy cardamom. You will notice dusty rose scents complemented with earthy notes of forest floor and truffle with black tea accents. Textured, with good volume and a juicy mid-palate, the rich robust flavors are full of dried herbs, sweet baking spices, cola, dark chocolate and blackberry. The finish is elegant and long with fine-grained tannins. Enjoy with duck, an earthy mushroom dish or a finely marbled filet.

This Pinot Noir is built for longevity. Cellaring for another 2-4 years will continue to build complexity while softening the tannins.

Alcohol 14.47% • TA: 6.31 g/L • pH: 3.4 • RS: 1.0 g/L (dry)  
100% Pinot Noir • 100% Tank Fermented  
Oak aged 14 months: 33% new, 33% 1-year old, 33% 2-year old  
Vineyards This Vintage: Owsley (76%) BB, CC and GG, Vine Hill (24%) K top



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