

2017

MUKAIDA VINEYARD

Russian River Valley PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This is a truly special wine. The Peters Vineyard has long been one of our highest praised vineyards. Its location on a high ridge south of Sebastopol and its Gold Ridge soil are a wonderful foundation for excellent fruit. The vineyard is blanketed by the cool ocean fog in the morning and evening, coaxing out the grapes' best flavors. The hot sunny days intensify the fruit and create just the flavor profile we are looking for in our wine. Planted with Pommard, 115 and 777 clones, this vineyard produces incredible fruit. The 'best of the best' Pommard and 777 clones are carefully selected every year for this special We chose the best grapes, whole-berry fermented and after aging selected the best 8 barrels to bottle as the Mukaida Vineyard.

This outstanding wine is named in honor of Tom Mukaida, whom we sadly lost in 2013. Tom was the beloved father-in-law of Randy Peters, one of our long-standing growers and a 3rd generation farmer. Tom began his farming career with apples. In the early 80s Randy convinced him there was a future in grapes and encouraged him to convert his apple orchards into vineyards. And we're very glad he did. By combining Tom's finely honed farming skills with an ideal locale on Bodega Highway, they created a vineyard that produces the spectacular fruit we enjoy today.

TASTING NOTES

Blending is one of our favorite parts of winemaking and we always start with a clean slate for the Mukaida. Choosing the best mix of clones from Peters Vineyard to make the Mukaida blend can be tough (but always fun). This year we were a little surprised to break tradition and replace the Pommard component of the blend with clone 115. While slightly different than previous years, marrying these two clones make for a perfect combination!

The deep garnet 2017 Mukaida has an inviting nose of purple flowers, deep red fruit and toasty graham cracker oak notes. We all swirled and took in the aromas for a long time with this one. On the palate this lush, complex wine kept us coming back quickly for another taste. The flavor profile is driven by dark red cherry, ripe raspberry and warm caramel and vanilla spice notes at first. And then as the wine opens, red fruit flavors stretch into darker stone fruit and hints of blackberry. Though the 115 clone keeps this blend firmly on the red fruit side, a super long finish with tinges of fresh acidity keeps this rich, flavorful wine in near perfect balance.

Of all the stellar 2017 wines, this is the one that can clearly be enjoyed on its own. But it really shows best with a big serving of lamb or pork cooked with herbs and mushrooms. Yes!

WINE PROFILE

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Appellation: Russian River Valley

Harvest Date: September 19, 2017

Alcohol: 14.9%

T.A.: 6.3 g/l

pH: 3.62

RS: Dry

Cooperage: 11 months in

Francois Frères French oak, 80% new, 20% 1 year-old

Bottled: August 9, 2018

Production: 231 cases / 750ml

16 cases / 1.5L

Papapietro Perry Winery

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