



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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely 'Randy Peters'.

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 is always a fun challenge. Typically, a blend of clones Pommard and 777, 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 this vintage made a perfect combination!

This delicious, expansive wine captures what makes us all fall in love with Pinot Noir. It starts with a brooding nose - mostly dark blue fruits and warm barrel toast interwoven with vibrant cherry and raspberry notes. With a polished, velvety quality on the palate and dark raspberry and blue fruit flavor playing alongside ripe cherry. The oak sweetness and spice give real depth and flesh, but the natural acidity offered by Peters Vineyard keeps the wine juicy and serious. There is a lot going on in this rich, complex package. It is the showstopper wine of the night and we like to pull this bottle when there are wild mushrooms and a high-quality ribeye on the grill.

WINE PROFILE

Varietal:	100% Pinot Noir
Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Harvest Date:	September 27, 2018
Alcohol:	14.18%
T.A.:	6.4 g/l
pH:	3.66
RS:	Dry
Cooperage:	11 months in Francois Frères French oak, 80% new, 20% 1 year-old
Bottled:	August 8, 2019
Production:	231 cases / 750ml 16 cases / 1.5L

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