

2018

POMMARD CLONES

Russian River Valley PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

We're still doing it! Not many California winemakers produce single-clone wines, and this one consistently shines as one of the best wines we produce.

Our Pommard Clones, which was the first clone growing in the Russian River Valley, release comes from a variety of vineyards in the Russian River Valley, including Leras Family Vineyards off Woolsey Road, Bucher Vineyards on Westside Road and Peters Vineyard just outside of Sebastopol, and they are always special. Each has the great characteristics of the Pommard Clone; deep flavors with rich mouth feel, and vibrant flavors unique to each site. While at first blending them was an experiment, we were so pleased with the results that we cherry-pick the best barrels each year from each lot and bottle them.

We have carefully refined our winemaking techniques in a way that defines our unique Pinot Noirs, separating the grapes by clone and vineyard during fermentation and aging. This gives us many more blending options. We cold soak the grapes two to three days before adding several different types of yeast, cultured specifically for Pinot Noir. During the seven to twelve days it takes to ferment, we hand-punch each fermenter, up to four times a day to ensure that the temperature doesn't get too warm. Once the juice is fermented, we press the fruit and move the wine into Francois Fréres French oak barrels, and then age for at least 11 months before bottling. Ben R. Capapieho

TASTING NOTES

This lush, velvety Pinot starts with tangy red fruit aromas—cherry, fresh strawberry and pomegranate—with a solid band of earthiness, adding interest and depth. On the palate, the initial hit is fresh strawberry and cherry, which seamlessly transitions to darker fruit flavors like black raspberry and fresh plum. The Russian River Valley earthiness (think Leras Family Vineyards) adds to the wine's overall complexity. Oak influences provide the perfect balance—supportive, not assertive. The dark, intense flavors, delivered by a velvety mouthfeel with plenty of acidity and a hint of fine grained tannins, linger on while you long for the next sip. The wine to select when you want something special to pair with rack of lamb, wild duck breast with a side of Cumberland sauce or steak tartare.

WINE PROFILE

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Appellation: Russian River Valley

Harvest Date: September 20, 2018

Alcohol: 14.29%

T.A.: 5.9 g/l

pH: 3.75

RS: Dry

Cooperage: 11 months in

> Francois Frères French oak, 70% new,

30% 1-2 year-old

Bottled: August 8, 2019

Production: 604 cases / 750ml

16 cases / 1.5L

Papapietro Perry Winery

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