



2018 Pinot noir

Russian River Valley

Winemaker Notes from Joe Otos

Our Estate vineyard on Burnside Road makes up more than half of this wine. It is a small meter by meter vineyard planted with a mix of Dijon clones, 115 and 667, with some Pommard clone 4, Joseph Swan and Calera clones. Its rich, well-drained Goldridge soil, provides the unique flavors that make this part of the Russian River so coveted—having become known as the Sebastopol Hills region.

The other major component of this Pinot comes off the Martinelli Ranch on River Road. It is 100% Dijon clone 828. This area is more on the flats next to the Russian River, more of a solid clay region, that gets much warmer than our Estate, which is why the clone 828 is ideal. It is a clone known for its lushness and ability to handle a little more warmth than other Pinot clones.



Lastly, we added a small amount, 12%, of our single vineyard Pinot from Sonoma Mountain. The vineyard, known as Kaufman Sunnyslope, is 100% Dijon clone 777. The wine from this vineyard is partially crushed, 25% being left as whole clusters which line the bottom the fermenter. The grapes are allowed to ferment naturally. The resulting wine offers amazing structure and a depth that you typically do not see from the neighboring Russian River, and the Kaufman is used in this blend to add structure, depth and layers of complexity.

The wines were all aged separately in small French oak vessels, mostly using wood from the Allier, Bertrage and Troncias regions. These acclaimed forests add a wide range of flavors, oils to this rich pinot.