

PAUL HOBBS

2020 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Clonal selection: 115, 777, 667, Pommard, 114, 113, 2a
- Rootstocks: 101-14, 420a, rg, swz, 3309
- Sites: Various exposures, and soils including Sebastopol Series
- Yield: 3.3 tons/acre

GROWING SEASON

A dry winter started the season with less than half the region's average rainfall leading to a mild spring and early season bud break. Summer began with relatively moderate temperatures resulting in exceptional phenolic development, allowing fruit to ripen and mature slowly on the vine. Consecutive heat spells coupled with a rare mid-August lightning storm accelerated the start of harvest two weeks earlier than average. All fruit was hand-harvested within seven weeks, and although challenging on many fronts, our highly skilled team persevered at every stage and excelled in their meticulous picking, sorting, and barrel selections. While some wines will not be produced as they did not meet our standards for quality, those that were are in very small quantities, ensuring the limited remaining bottlings showcase their full character with great energy, depth of flavor, and focus.

HARVEST

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- Harvest dates: September 8 - 24

WINEMAKING

- Hand-sorted while still cold from the field
- 11% whole cluster inclusion
- Fermented in small, open-top stainless steel tanks with indigenous yeasts
- 5-day cold soak, 17 day maceration
- Gentle punchdowns
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrel
- Aged 9 months in French oak barrels; 30% new
- Coopers: François Frères, Cadus, Louis Latour, Billon, Leroi, Remond, Taransaud, Vicard G7
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; August 2021

TASTING NOTES

Estate-born from our high-density plantings in the western reaches of the appellation, this vintage displays translucent ruby and entices with freshly picked violets, wild cherry, and scents of sage. The palate is framed by a supple texture and well-integrated tannins that opens with layered notes of crushed pomegranate seeds, blood orange extract, and lightly steeped Rooibos tea. This is an elegant and graceful wine with bright acidity, leading to a long and pure finish.