



Three Sisters Vineyard Pinot Noir

Fort Ross – Seaview / Sonoma Coast

2015

Vineyard Character

The Three Sisters Vineyard consists of two small vineyard sites: the Meadow, and the Lambing Barn Ridge, as this land was originally used for raising sheep. This grape studded view lies upon the second ridge inland from the coastline at Fort Ross. Here above the fog line the skies are clear and pristine, yet in the winter the rain falls harder and denser than anywhere else in Sonoma County. Both sites are planted with clones 777, 115, and Pommard, with Josephine and Gold Ridge soils.

Growing Year

The 2015 harvest was the earliest that we have had in a while, starting on August 12th. Even though the previous three years were all very early harvests, 2015 had them all beat. We had a very dry spring with cool weather during bloom (April-May) which caused a long fruit-set period that resulted in some shatter, creating a reduced crop size by 35-50% in some vineyards. The combination of lower yields and early spring bud break meant the ripening period started off early and progressed rapidly. Despite these challenging growing conditions and lower yields, the fruit quality for 2015 was exceptional.

Wine Statistics

This petite vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground. The vines are densely spaced and thinned between two and three pounds of fruit per vine. These practices insure even ripening and mature fruit character in the wine. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, while fermenting with wild yeast. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry, resting in 60% new French oak for 10 months before bottling. This wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, and is un-fined and unfiltered, clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 219

Tasting Notes

Our 2015 Three Sisters Pinot Noir has a bright and expressive nose filled with red raspberry, black cherry, and earthy notes. On the palate, beautiful spicy red fruits along with baking spices and sweet leather. The finish is elegant and very long, with delicious cherry/plummy notes.

Historical Acclaim

2015 Vintage

- 96 pts. The Wine Advocate
- 95+ pts. Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2014 Vintage

- 94 pts. Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93 + pts. The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green