

PINOT NOIR WILD THYME VINEYARD • FORT ROSS - SEAVIEW 2021



2019 VINTAGE

PINOT NOIR

WILD THYME VINEYARD

94 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2021

FORT ROSS-SEAVIEW ESTATE GROWN

96 points Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

> Oak: 50% new French Oak. 50% neutral French Oak, 10 months Case Production: 178

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Josephine, Goldridge Rootstock: 420A, 3309 Clones: 943, Pommard

WINEMAKER

Courtney Robinett Wagoner

GROWING YEAR

2021 was the driest known year on record and was also the third year of drought conditions for Sonoma County. Contrary to these conditions, the summer was relatively cool and started two weeks later than the previous year. The drought conditions did bring ripeness to each of our varietals at just about the same time. By the end of the first week, we had 40% of total tonnage in the winery. This included Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel from both Fort Ross-Seaview and Russian River Valley. Despite being a very compact harvest, small clusters and berry size have yielded exceptional quality which makes 2021 a standout vintage.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

We planted the Wild Thyme Vineyard with clones Pommard and 943 in the year 2009. It sits along the ridge-line between our Three Sisters Vineyard and our Blue Slide Ridge Vineyard, on the edge of a sheer canyon that the old timers refer to as "Devil's Canyon". The vineyard is just above the fogbank that hugs these coastal cliffs, allowing for this Pinot Noir to ripen slowly, developing layers of complexity and flavor. Wild Thyme Vineyard is named for the wild thyme that grows abundantly at this location, and for the wild times we have had as a family while drinking wine on this property since the 1860s.

TASTING NOTES

The complex and almost mysterious nose has aromas of mountain wild berries, blueberries, and fuchsia petals. Bursting upon entry, the palate has mouthwatering flavors of black cherry and blueberries. Subdued tannins and a hint of barrel spice add to the long finish.