

2018 PINOT NOIR
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY



TASTING NOTES

Dark in color for a Pinot Noir, the very fragrant nose offers spicebox, blue-black berries, lilac, smoked cherry wood, and a bit of sage. A subtle smoked-meat gaminess lingers at the edges. The palate shows a delicate “tingling” tannin structure around a classic Russian River Valley texture that’s supple, creamy, and light. The finish introduces rose petal, black tea, and red berry flourishes. This Pinot Noir is opulent, rich, and intriguing while still displaying great freshness.

VINEYARD COMPOSITION

The KANZLER Pinot Noir is unusual for a blend, as the majority of grapes come from the renowned estate vineyard. The other three vineyards in the composition are independent family-owned gems situated nearby. Thus, the wine delivers the deeply compelling, complex, lithe character of the Sebastopol Hills micro-region. The estate vineyard was planted in 1996 southwest of the Sonoma County town of Sebastopol, Calif. The location is ideal for Pinot, which enjoys well-drained Goldridge soil, sunny summers, cooling Pacific Ocean breezes, and fog.

GROWING SEASON

Winter 2018 got off to an ominous start: warm and dry with a dismal snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. Luckily, March brought lashings of rain. The growing season was balanced and vine-friendly, with seasonal but moderate temperatures. As harvest approached, the weather turned cool and foggy. Ripening slowed to a trickle and we simply waited for optimal maturity. The fruit arrived at the winery in beautiful condition, with intense flavors and great chemistry.

WINEMAKING

We hand-pick our grapes at night and hand-sort them twice before placing in T-bins or stainless-steel tanks. After a 4 to 5 day cold soak, we raise the temperature to initiate fermentation by native yeasts. When we taste the proper structure, it’s time to gently basket-press. We then select barrels to complement each lot. After 15 months, the finished wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

SPECS

PRODUCTION
1,152 cases

APPELLATION
Russian River Valley

VARIETAL
100% Pinot Noir

HARVESTED
Sept. 17-Oct. 12, 2018

VINEYARDS
63% Kanzler Estate
23% Walker Station
11% Mes Filles
3% Wind Horse

FERMENTATION
Native and cultured yeast

AGING
14 months on lees
French oak barrels—13% new
Finished 1 month stainless steel

BOTTLED
December 16th, 2018
Unfinned, unfiltered

ALCOHOL
14.4% by volume

PH
3.6

WINEMAKER
Alex Kanzler