



## 2015 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley



**ORIGIN:** This wine spotlights the complex, concentrated and fruit-driven style of Pinot Noir that exemplifies the Russian River Valley. To craft this wine, we work with a handful of top vineyards including our own Thale's Vineyard. This wine blends fruit from two Dutton properties, Winkler and Manzana, with grapes from Cummings Vineyard and Thale's Vineyard.

**VINEYARD NOTES:** The 2015 vintage came on quick. The temperatures were fairly warm with no threat of rain in sight. The vineyards were farmed meticulously in order to keep the vigorous canopy that develops in the Russian River Valley's famed Goldridge soils balanced. As a result, the pure fruit and clarity of our Russian River Valley vineyards shines through in this wine. The fruit was hand-harvested on four different days: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The four distinct harvest dates reflect the individual nature of each site, and what each lends to the complexity of this wine.

**WINEMAKING NOTES:** The fruit was picked as whole clusters and brought to the winery in half-ton macro bins. It was then hand-sorted and gently destemmed into our 1-ton Super T fermenters. The skins of the fruit were punched down twice a day during fermentation to achieve maximum color and flavor extraction with minimal harsh tannin from the seeds. When primary fermentation was complete, the wine was pressed from the skins into French oak barrels, 15% of which were new, with 35% being one-year old. To add complexity, a number of different cooperages were used. The final blend was assembled prior to bottling, which occurred on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**TASTING NOTES:** While this wine has abundant layers of lush Russian River Valley fruit, it also has a delicate side, with aromas of earthy forest floor and dried cherry. On the palate, the entry is soft and supple, with seamless tannins that support flavors of red, juicy berries.

This vintage produced 20 barrels, 482 (750 ml) cases.

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