

FORT ROSS

VINEYARD & WINERY · SONOMA COAST

2001 PINOT NOIR · FORT ROSS VINEYARD · SONOMA COAST

OVERVIEW

From our mountain vineyard on the “True Sonoma Coast”, Fort Ross Vineyard produces limited amounts of estate grown, cool-climate Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinotage. With spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean less than one mile away, the vineyard is divided into 28 separate blocks, one half to two acres in size, traversing elevations ranging from 1200 to 1700 feet above sea level. Owners, Lester and Linda Schwartz with their small crew began preparing the 44 acre vineyard in 1994 and planting began in 1998.

VINTAGE

2001 was our first commercial vintage. A relatively cool spring preceded warm weather in May and June. In August and September, the cooling influence of the nearby Pacific Ocean allowed the grapes to reach physiological maturity without the risk of dehydration. Individual blocks were harvested on multiple occasions based upon flavor profile and ripeness of the individual vines. The yield was low and the flavors were correspondingly high.

WINEMAKING

The grapes for this Pinot Noir were handpicked in the cool early morning hours in small 5 gallon buckets. After hand sorting, the grapes were cold soaked for several days and fermented in simple open-top fermenters. The caps were manually punched down. Shortly after pressing, the wines were barreled in a combination of new and used French oak. Throughout fermentation and aging, the clones and the different vineyard blocks were kept separate to maintain their distinct flavor profiles and structural components as blending elements. The wine was bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

Lilting aromas of rose petals, ripe black cherries and a hint of truffles, a fine balance between fruitiness and subtle acidity with a touch of oak, introduce this supple, smooth Pinot Noir. Its luscious red fruit, sassafras and hibiscus continue to unfold through the long finish. Immediately enjoyable, this well structured wine will hold for many years to come as its complexity continues to develop.

COMPOSITION: 100% Pinot Noir
SELECTIONS: Dijon clones 115 and 777
AGING: 17 months in 100% French; 38% new
ALCOHOL 14.5%
ACIDITY: .55 g/100ml
pH: 3.60
BOTTLING: Unfinned and unfiltered
CASES PRODUCED: 275 cases 750 ml, 80 cases 12/375 ml
RELEASE DATE: Current release.