



THE FIRST SPARKLING WINERY IN CARNEROS

2017 Gravel Knob Vineyard Pinot Noir

The Gravel Knob vineyard is comprised of several blocks on the hillside closest to the winery, on our Home Ranch. One small section of the 30-acre block produces California Pinot Noir of incomparable quality. Gravel Knob, as the name implies, has rocky soils, which causes the vines to struggle, putting all their effort into the fruit. This wine showcases Sonoma Carneros Pinot Noir at its finest.

COMPOSITION: 100% Pinot Noir
AGING: 9 months in French Oak
APPELLATION: Carneros
ALCOHOL: 14.5%
TA: 0.58 g/mL
PH: 3.72
CASE PRODUCTION: 500



TASTING NOTES:

A dark purple color that confirms a wine of extraordinary character with deep aromas of rhubarb, plum and forest floor. Flavors of blackberry, boysenberry and cranberry mixed with balanced acidity and light tannins give it a firm structure and full mouthfeel with a lingering finish.

VINTAGE NOTES:

The spring of 2017 brought record rainfall to break the six year drought parching California. The late rains provided plenty of water to the vines for a vigorous start to the growing season. Harvest began about 10 days earlier than average. Heat spikes during harvest created some anxiety, but we were able to pick all of the grapes at their optimum ripeness.

WINEMAKING PROCESS:

Individual vineyard lots were hand picked, destemmed, partially crushed and cold-soaked for two days to extract color and flavors. Three times per day they are on a punchdown or pumpover schedule, tailored to each lot to extract the fruit characters. The wine is then aged for 9 months in 100% French oak with 32% new oak barrels.

FOOD PAIRINGS:

Try a lemony whipped feta, charred scallions, and wild boar sausages to pair with the earthiness. This wine is light enough to pair with blistered tomatoes tossed with fresh herbs and olive oil on angel hair pasta, yet bold enough to stand up to a cassoulet. A honeyed almond fig torte will bring forward all of the delicate fruit flavors that are layered throughout the wine.

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