

2015 VINTAGE NOTES

BY WINEMAKER MATT COURTNEY

The 2015 vintage was very much about the epic drought the west coast had been experiencing for at least three full years. The dry conditions seemed to have had a cumulative effect on the vines, with the 2013, 2014, and 2015 reds being progressively dark, concentrated, and extracted, and the whites following a similar trend with respect to concentration and power.

In 2015, managing extraction become the key to making great wine: the wines had so much natural color, tannin, and power that a very gentle approach was the only way to avoid over-extraction and preserve freshness and finesse. We were quick to realize this and adjusted our winemaking accordingly which has resulted in wines that possess incredible saturated color, effortless richness and density, and extraordinary concentration. All while maintaining textural poise and polish.



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2015 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY

The 2015 Russian River Valley Chardonnay is a blend of our four Russian River Valley Chardonnay vineyards: El Diablo Vineyard on Eastside Road, Banfield Vineyard on Martinelli Road, Ritchie Vineyard on Eastside Road, and our estate Chardonnay vineyard on our Westside Road property. The wine is made with a modest amount of new oak to allow the fruit to take center stage.

These appellation wines always offer great insight into the region as a whole for the given vintage. In 2015, we have a wine with great richness and silkiness, yet still possessing structure. Notes of white peach, toast, sweet cream, and white pepper greet the nose, while flavors of orchard fruit, quince, and asian pear (and pear skin) are buoyed by a savory and mouth-watering mix of tangy acidity and minerals on the finish.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2026



2015 BANFIELD VINEYARD CHARDONNAY,

The Chardonnay blocks in Banfield Vineyard are some of the coolest sites we work with. The vineyard sits in a protected pocket of the Russian River Valley that collects cool air in the mornings, and warms up slowly only when the morning sun peaks over the surrounding hills. Aromas of lime zest, orange blossom, wet granite, panna cotta and grilled bread emanate from the glass. The wine has great texture, density and minerality with notes of asian pear, lime curd, melted rocks, and lemon butter that build in intensity through the mid-palate and carry the long finish.

Peak drinking window: 2019 through 2029



2015 RITCHIE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



The 2015 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay is a rich, layered wine which showcases the quality of one of the Russian River Valley's Grand Cru vineyards. On the nose, the wine displays aromas of wet granite, brioche, orange zest, lemon oil, white flowers, and sweet cream. On the palate, the wine is silky and rich, with notes of pear nectar, lemon butter, mango, and panna cotta. The wine has an intensity that builds on the palate for several seconds, peaking with an electric acidity. This Chardonnay has incredible density and length, with layers of flavors unfolding on the palate for a full minute.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2028

2015 U.V. EL DIABLO VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



The 2015 El Diablo Vineyard Chardonnay is made from grapes grown on the eastern banks of the Russian River by our esteemed vineyard manager, Ulises Valdez. Our two favorite clones of Chardonnay, "Montrachet" and "Old Wente", are planted in this vineyard and are blended together to create this wine. Notes of Meyer lemon, orchard fruit, candied orange peel, mint, cut hay, panna cotta, and crusty bread marry with bright acidity and briny minerality.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2028



2015 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

As always, the 2015 Russian River Valley Pinot noir is a blend of barrels from all of our Russian River Valley appellation vineyards. A beautiful garnet color is accompanied by notes of lavender, raspberry reduction, pencil lead, and damp earth on the nose. The wine has a pleasant tannic grip providing structure for flavors of blackberry, plum, wild cherry, and asian spice.

Peak drinking window: 2017 through 2027



2015 SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR

With an abundance of ripe red and blue fruit, the 2015 Sonoma Coast Pinot noir is open, accessible, and delicious. On the nose, notes of sweet spice, cola and violets add complexity to the core of crushed berries. On the palate, the wine is broad and rich. The light-handed oak treatment allows the fruit to take center stage, with lively mineral-laced tannins supporting a juicy, medium-length finish.

Peak drinking window: 2017 through 2025



2015 FERRINGTON VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The 2015 Ferrington Pinot noir is distinctive expression of Anderson Valley Pinot noir that blends power and purity in the same glass. Explosive aromatics of crushed pomegranate seeds, dried lavender, plum, and graphite are hallmarks of Ferrington Vineyard and are present in abundance. The intensely floral nose is accompanied by flavors of bright red raspberry, black pepper, toasted herbs, and tart bing cherries. A tangy, persistent acid backbone blends with chewy tannins to give the wine a firm and energetic finish.

Peak drinking window: 2017 through 2027



2015 MONONI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Mononi Vineyard is a gently sloping three-acre parcel of Pinot noir planted in the heart of the Russian River Valley appellation. In 2015, this vineyard produced a classic Russian River Valley Pinot noir, dense with tart black cherry, elderberry, espresso, raspberry reduction, and minerals on the palate. The nose is at first brooding, with damp yet fresh forrest floor notes, but opens up once exposed to air to reveal layers of crushed cherries, wild strawberries, cola, cinnamon stick, and violets. Despite its intense, dark ruby appearance, the wine is lifted and light on the finish which lasts for nearly a full minute.

Peak drinking window: 2017 through 2027



2015 PERLI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The 2015 Perli Vineyard Pinot noir boasts an exotic nose of forrest floor, black plum, pine needle, and wild raspberry. Savory, mouth-filling tannins and tangy acidity typical of this remote site on the Mendocino coast provide ample structure for flavors of black currant, graphite, tangy cherry, red fruits, and asian spice. There is a coppery acidity and mineral-driven intensity on the palate which carries the minute-long finish.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2028



2015 TOBONI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The profile of the neon ruby colored 2015 Toboni Vineyard Pinot noir is classic Russian River Valley. The nose is full of sweet spice, cola, and raspberry aromas. Notes of cocoa powder, bacon, fresh raspberries, and fig come in waves as this layered and concentrated wine opens up in the glass. More complex aromas of raspberry coulis, turned earth, grilled pancetta, graham cracker, and violets begin to develop with exposure to air. The finish is long and persistent with mouth-watering acidity providing structure, freshness, and lift.

Peak drinking window: 2017 through 2025



2015 U.V. LUCKY WELL VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Lucky Well Vineyard is perched at the very top of Stoetz Ridge, the land mass that divides the true Sonoma Coast from the Russian River Valley. As such, the wine made from this site always expresses qualities from both regions: the high-toned wild berry fruit and earthiness of the Coast, and the power, richness, and complexity of the Russian River Valley. An explosive nose of honey, orange peel, crushed violets, pie crust, and wild blackberries fills the glass. The palate is a fusion of salted caramel, black cherry, blueberry, and wild strawberry. The flavors expand on the palate and are carried by a firm, mineral-laden acid backbone for a minute or more.

Peak drinking window: 2017 through 2027



2015 HARPER'S REST ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The Harper's Rest Estate bottling always stands out as one of the flagship wines of our portfolio. The 2015 Harper's Rest Pinot noir is no exception. With a vibrant, dark garnet color, and bouquet of spiced cherries, puréed blackberries, black tea, and toasted French oak, this estate wine is a classic example of Russian River Valley richness, density, and finesse.

Harper's Rest is a 2-acre block planted on an ancient, gravelly, alluvial deposit on our Westside Road estate. This soil imbues the wine with a power, minerality, and concentration that is unparalleled in our line-up. While the wine is delicious right out of the bottle, it improves with air releasing notes of black plum, cola, and huckleberry, complimented by a savory, bay leaf quality. Tangy acidity and chewy, mouth-filling tannins carry the intensity for a minute-long finish.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2028



2015 TWO BIRDS ESTATE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

The Two Birds Vineyard on our Westside Road estate is a 3-acre planting of three “heritage” clones of Pinot noir: Swan, Vosne-Romanée, and Pommard. These clones, planted on the well-draining, reddish-brown Sobrante soils, produce wines with very delicate and lifted aromatics of flowers and earth.

In the 2015 bottling, notes of fresh roses, turned earth, graphite, lavender, and crushed blue fruits mingle with subtle barrel notes of cedar and toasty oak. On the palate, the wine is expansive and intense, with black cherry, raspberry reduction, cola, and baking spices supported by a subtle acid backbone and grippy tannins that keep the wine fresh and lively. The exquisite balance of the 2015 Two Birds Pinot noir is a signature of the wines produced from our estate in the heart of the Russian River Valley, and allows the wine to fan out on the palate for a minute or more.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2028

2015 FERRINGTON VINEYARD GEWÜRZTRAMINER



The 2015 Ferrington Vineyard Gewürztraminer opens with a nose of yellow stone fruit, white flowers, lychee, quince, spiced honey, and talcum. The wine is made in an almost totally dry style, yet there is ample richness on the palate which plays well with the herbal, stony/flinty character and pleasantly grippy finish.

Peak drinking window: 2016 through 2024

2015 BANFIELD VINEYARD ZINFANDEL



The Banfield Vineyard Zinfandel is made from a small plot of ancient, dry farmed Zinfandel vines planted on a steep hillside in the Russian River Valley in 1880. In 2015, the wine from this incredible vineyard is a textbook example of Russian River Valley Zinfandel at its best: a seamless combination of explosive fruit, bright acidity, and silky tannins. Aromas of crushed blackberry, raspberry, and cherry are joined by notes of cinnamon stick, tar, black pepper, and dried roses. On the palate, the wine is dense but not heavy, clean and red-fruited, chewy and mouth-filling, with notes of wild strawberry, tart cherry, and dark chocolate persisting for a full minute.

Peak drinking window: 2018 through 2028