



## 2021 ASTON SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR

What's the greatest vintage on the Sonoma Coast to date, 2019 or 2021? It's nice that we are debating between our two most recent, significant vintages. They are two very different years so I'm guessing the answer is mostly subjective. Where 2019 featured such classic varietal notes and a great expression of each wine's site, 2021 led with vintage first giving wines up and down the coast an incredible consistency. The vintage first years can be a little daunting to differentiate given the sameness that can pop up across producers and regions but the more naturally made, less manipulated wines will find their way to site expression with some time in bottle. We are already seeing that with the 2021 Aston Estate. The other defining attribute of the year we talked about when we released the 2021 Rivers-Marie wines was a big crop doesn't equal dilute, uninteresting Pinots. The recent warming trend on the coast has been very unkind to small crops. These warmer years have pulled back the curtain on a new type of balance in the vineyard. In 2021, a small crop would have roasted on the vine, accumulating sugar way ahead of true ripeness and forcing us to decide between normal brix levels showcasing under ripe fruit or sweeter, more candied style wines made with physiologically ripe grapes. The bigger 2021 crop helped balance the early heat of the growing season allowing us to pick after the traditional Labor Day heat wave broke. Getting to these shorter, cooler days of hang time put the finishing touches on a magical Sonoma Coast vintage.

For the first time ever, we attempted to make this wine a more accurate reflection of the coast as a whole. The 2021 Aston Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir is a blend of Aston Estate fruit, as well as fruit from two different Pinot Noir vineyards, Riddle and Joy Road, located more southernly, around the town of Occidental. The result in the glass highlights the dark, umami-rich forest floor character of the Estate fruit, interwoven with vivacious red fruit and bright acidity that is the hallmark of Occidental-area vineyards. The mouthwatering quality of this appellation level wine is probably what I like best about it simultaneously providing really nice weight without growing heavy or tiresome.

## THE ESTATE

In early 2021 I was offered the chance to own Aston outright. I knew immediately there was no way I could let this get away. After investing 20+ years of effort into this now mature 14 acre plot of Pinot Noir, I'm proud to announce this is part of my growing winemaking family for years to come.

### APPELLATION:

*Sonoma Coast*

### VARIETAL:

*100% Pinot Noir*

### BARREL AGING:

*100% French Oak*

*10% New (Ermitage, Francois Freres, Remond)*

### ALCOHOL:

*14.5%*

### TOTAL PRODUCTION:

*1451 Cases*