

ASTON ESTATE



2023 ASTON ESTATE PINOT NOIR

This continues to be a best barrel selection from a handful of blocks on the Estate. Over time, the center cut of the vineyard consisting of clones 115, 667 and 777 has shown itself to possess the best balance of fruit and tannin on the property. Once these blocks have been identified, we taste every barrel to make the Estate wine. With the 2023, it ended up being 60% clone 777, 30% 667 and 10% 115. The result is a brooding wine featuring all the usual dark berries of the area complemented by sandalwood, pomegranate, nori, sea spray, mint and wild herbs. It's an exotic blend as always, something I feel like we fought in the beginning, but is now the character of the site and the region. We continue the trend of pulling back on ripeness and we see that reflected in the mouthwatering freshness of the wine, a trait absent from the earlier wines. If anything, it is moving in the direction of how I craft the Rivers-Marie wines without losing any of the wild, savage combinations that make Annapolis so unique. Vine age has been helping this direction and then when you add the specialness of 2023, hard to do something that doesn't rival your greatest wines of the past.



THE ESTATE

In 2001 after finding a very intriguing 40 acre parcel in a remote part of the northern Sonoma Coast, I established Aston Estate with partners Fred Schrader (Schrader Cellars, Boars' View) and Charles Sweeney (Vine Cliff). After planting 14 acres later that summer, we vinified our first vintage in 2004 under the Aston Experimental label. As the years passed and the partnership evolved, the one thing that never changed was my commitment to the Aston Estate project. In the beginning, the style was a bit bigger reflecting what was currently happening on the coast, the unpredictability of the weather, younger vine characteristics and the logistics of hauling the fruit out of this remote site. With better access to the site, more vineyard activity in the area and older vines, it has become easier to take the quality of the fruit to exactly where we want it out at the Estate. There have been a few turning points out here in terms of wine quality. After tasting every single wine we've made from the estate a couple months ago, it was clear 2009 and 2015 ushered in new eras of quality.

In 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 will be part of the growing winemaking family for years to come.

APPELLATION:

West Sonoma Coast

VARIETAL:

100% Pinot Noir

BARREL AGING:

100% French Oak

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

ALCOHOL:

13.9%

PRODUCTION:

667 cases