

ASTON



2023 ASTON SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR

This returns us to something like the 2021 edition. Consisting of 62% Estate fruit and 38% Riddle Vineyard, the 2023 feels more representative of the coast as whole. It has all the dark, brooding savoriness of Annapolis complemented by the red/orange lifted feel of Occidental. These two sub-AVAs of the Sonoma Coast don't have much in common but that's why they present such a complete wine when blended. Crunchy red fruits turn to black raspberries as the wine brings up a salty, mineral quality lifted by floral notes and wet gravel. It manages to stay light and fresh while presenting as a weighty style of Pinot. The broad shouldered quality of the Annapolis wines can often be confused with a riper style or overextraction, but we are coming to find out that's just what the area offers. There are hints of that in this wine, but the Riddle Vineyard pulls it back offering a slightly lighter shade of red than the Estate bottling lifting the aromatics into pennyroyal mint, sage and forest floor. The goal is to always have this wine overdeliver quality relative to price and this wine is an overachiever in that arena.



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:

Sonoma Coast

VARIETAL:

100% Pinot Noir

BARREL AGING:

100% French Oak

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

ALCOHOL:

13.9%

PRODUCTION:

774 cases