

ASTON

ESTATE



2024 ASTON ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Every year we cut the Estate vineyard into smaller pieces to see where the greatest quality lies. In the beginning, we addressed the site by clone, picking the 115, 667 and 777 in their respective entirety every vintage for the first 15 years or so. With my acquisition of the project in 2021, we've begun drilling into finer details. The last couple mailers, we've been talking a lot about the style evolution at Aston, moving more toward what I do at Rivers-Marie. The other big change year over year has been the number of individual ferments we execute at harvest. This increased lot total gives us more flexibility to make better blends and determine not just what's the best clone, but what are the best sections within each clonal break. For 2024, we discovered what we always thought had been true but had never confirmed, the center cut of the clone 777 hill is where the highest quality sits. We complemented that with small pieces of clone 115 and 667 to achieve the final blend. Even with this level of refinement, there's still a wildness to this wine that marks its place on the West Sonoma Coast. The texture is always a bit rustic and savory notes of menthol, juniper, lavender and tea leaf dominate the aromatic. There is ample tannin but it's a rich structure that melds into darker fruit flavors of blueberries and black raspberries supported on the palate by graphite, wet earth and a dense mineral profile. Though we've pulled back on the style, the Aston Estate bottling remains its same hearty self but now with more refinement and a bigger acid profile to keep it fresh and lighter on its feet.



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 (Ermitage, Francois Freres, Remond)

ALCOHOL:

13.9%

TOTAL PRODUCTION:

801 Cases