

# Ernest Vineyards

## *Cleary Ranch / Pinot Noir 2021*

### *Sonoma Coast*

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**THE VINEYARD:** Cleary Ranch is the southern vineyard anchoring the 14 acres of Ernest properties in foggy Freestone Valley. Only seven miles from the Pacific, it is one of the coldest areas in all of the West Sonoma Coast with the marine layer lingering well into mid-day and returning late afternoon. The extremely cool climate allows for extended hang time before harvest delivering deep complexity. Blucher clay soils peppered with sandy loam closer to Salmon Creek have led us to dry farming in most years and deficit irrigation in drought years. The vineyard was certified Organic by CCOF in 2023.

**WINEMAKING:** This small cuvee derives from 25 year old plantings along what used to be a North Coast Pacific Railroad that ran from Point Reyes in the south to Cazadero in the north. The 115 clone planted here develops depth and structure while maintaining all of the 'Salmon Creek garrigue'. Blended with 667 clone providing concentrated red fruit. The organic farming practices are paying off, lending naturally low yields as the vines find their balance without much intervention from us. Aged in mostly 500L puncheons with some new 228L barrels for 18 months. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

**TASTING NOTES:** This wine has a beautiful and deep burgundy color with violet hues. The intoxicating perfume of red rose petal and summer blackberry is combined with sour cherry, pomegranate seed, and rhubarb. The palate is as decadent as the aromas suggested. There's an explosion of red and black fruit flavors laced with impeccably precise and focused acidity. This Pinot Noir professes elegance and finesse while teasing about what's yet to come. It is wonderfully drinkable now but it shows incredible potential to improve in the cellar for years to come!

**ALC. BY VOL:** 12.8%

**AGING:** 38% NEW FRENCH OAK

**LENGTH:** 18 MONTHS

**WINEMAKER:** JOSEPH RYAN

**CASES PRODUCED:** 160

**CLONES:** 667, 115

**HARVEST DATE:** 9.10.2020

**HARVEST BRIX:** 22.5

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