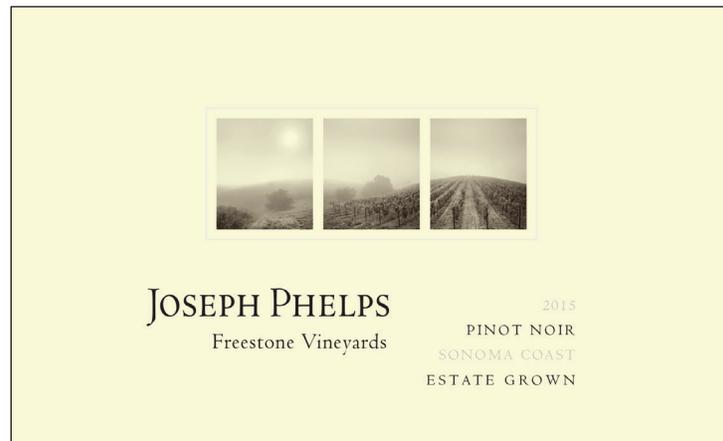


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Pinot Noir, Freestone Vineyards, Sonoma Coast 2015

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** August 12 - September 10, 2015.

**Blend:** 100% estate-grown Pinot Noir from our Freestone Vineyards (58% Pastorale Vineyard and 42% Quarter Moon Vineyard).

**Aging:** 13 months in 41% new and 59% two-year-old French oak barrels.

**Winemaking Notes:** Grapes were picked during the cool pre-dawn hours and sorted before being gravity fed to tank for a long natural fermentation using an overall average of 19% whole clusters in the final blend. Regular punch downs produced a finely textured wine with elegant structure and a distinctive Freestone spice character prevalent throughout this area of the western Sonoma Coast.

The 2015 Pinot Noir opens with concentrated red fruit, floral notes and citrus peel followed by tangy spice, Bing cherry, juicy dark raspberry and dried herbs. A rich, opulent wine with sumptuous layers of blackberry jam, lavender and earthy forest floor throughout the palate to a lingering finish.

**Growing Season:** The 2015 Sonoma Coast growing season experienced dry, mild winter and spring temperatures similar to the prior three growing seasons. Bud break was 3-4 weeks earlier than normal, followed by an early period of bloom. May temperatures were cool, but August and September were consistently warm, creating conditions for one of the earliest harvests on record. The early growing season resulted in extremely small clusters and berries with intense flavor and tannin structure. The early harvest allowed our winemaking team the ability to capture the natural acidity in the fruit with ideal sugar accumulation.

**Review:** 92 Points, "A medium ruby-purple color and nose of red cherries and black raspberries with hints of wild thyme, forest floor, lavender and moss. Medium-bodied, the palate is elegant and finely grained, with intense earth and red berry flavors, as well as a long finish." -LPB, *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, March 2017