

# JOSEPH PHELPS

## Joseph Phelps Proem No. 3 Pinot Noir 2019

Proem: A preamble to a story.

*This Pinot Noir is from an ancient slope crowned with Redwoods.*

*Proem wines are singular expression bottlings from the Joseph Phelps Freestone Estate, where site and clonal selection are the beginning of a new and distinctive winemaking story.*

### Winemaking Data

**Blend:** 100% Pinot Noir from block 20I of our Pastoral Vineyard, planted to 100% clone 777.

**Aging:** 15 months in 55% New French oak and 45% used French oak barrels with 36% whole cluster inclusion.

**Winemaking:** In our Pastoral Vineyard, Winemaker Justin Ennis especially likes fruit from block 20I, a section of the vineyard called Ski Slope due to the steep hillside in which the vineyard is planted. During the 2019 harvest, a very distinctive section of block 20I was held separate to be fermented with a larger percentage of whole cluster fruit, and a longer barrel aging regime. This wine highlights a pure expression of our Freestone Estate.

A wine fully representative of Pastoral Vineyard's purity of character. The 2019 possesses a vibrant elegance from entry to finish, highlighting ripe strawberry, raspberry, floral violet, and black pepper nuance. There is a rustic intensity throughout the palate with dancing acidity and a seamless finish.

**Growing Season:** In 2019, bud break occurred around the same time as 2018 but was delayed compared to our historical averages due to cold, saturated soils from the wet winter, particularly in February. Cool weather continued throughout spring with an unusual amount of rainfall which delayed bloom in some areas. Canopy management was key in 2019 due to vigorous growth and moderate temperatures. July was cooler than average, but August and September warmed to push ripening ahead. In 2019, the quality of Pinot Noir from our Sonoma Coast estate was excellent with well-developed flavors, naturally fresh acidity and superb balance.

