



2015 Louise Vineyard Pinot Noir



Planted in 1993, Louise Vineyard was named for Cristom winegrower & owner Tom Gerrie's great-grandmother, Louise Dinkelspiel. The lowest-elevation Pinot Noir planting on the Cristom estate, Louise Vineyard can be distinctly separated into an "upper" and "lower" section, divided by a 150 ft. (45.7 m) slope. Because of this unique topography, Louise typically has both some of the earliest and latest fruit harvested each year; in the 2015 vintage, we recorded our earliest-ever pick date, bringing in the first estate fruit of the harvest from the Louise Vineyard on September 1st.

"Pale to medium ruby-purple, the 2015 Pinot Noir Louise Vineyard has a savory, almost meaty nose over a core of Black Forest cake, red currants, mulberries, cardamom and fenugreek with a touch of potpourri. Medium-bodied, the palate has exquisitely fine tannins and a lively line of acidity supporting generous, multi-layered red berry preserves and spice, finishing with impressive persistence and depth."

94 points, Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, August 2017



WINEMAKING

Hand harvested and hand sorted fruit, 43% whole clusters

Minimum effective additions of sulfur and tartaric acid, Native yeast fermentations, 1-3 punch-downs daily in 1-5 ton open-top fermenters

Gently pressed in a pneumatic bladder press, moved to barrel by gravity and never racked, unless necessary

Undergoes a full malolactic fermentation in barrel

Fined with egg whites, unfiltered

ALC 14.1% TA 5.7 g/L pH 3.73

CLONES Dijon (113, 114, 115, 777), Pommard

BOTTLED May 1, 2017

PRODUCTION 945 cases

COOPERAGE

18 months in French oak, 56% new

30% Tonnellerie François Frères
 26% Sirugue
 13% Tonnellerie Rousseau
 9% Tonnellerie de Mercurey
 9% Tonnellerie Remond
 9% Seguin Moreau
 4% Tonnellerie Meyrieux

Vintage Notes In 2015, the Pinot Noir vines got off to a warm and dry start with the earliest budbreak (March!) ever recorded at our estate – a full 3 weeks earlier than our twenty-five-year average. Warmth continued through spring, leading to bloom beginning in most blocks at the end of May – also the earliest ever recorded at the estate. The warm, dry weather during flowering was prime for yielding a heavy fruit set, and the vineyard produced sizeable clusters with large berries. These ideal growing conditions created the rare combination of abundant quantity and exceptional quality fruit, producing intensely fragrant and energetic wines that show a blend of depth, concentration and nuance.



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