

2017 PINOT NOIR

SONOMA COUNTY

100% Pinot Noir

ALCOHOL 14.2% | BOTTLING APRIL 2018 | CASE PRODUCTION 4100
AGING 8 MONTHS, FRENCH OAK, 25% NEW | WINEMAKER KATIE MADIGAN

VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season started out wet with record-breaking rainfall refreshing our vineyards after several dry years. The mild spring led to timely bud break and good fruit set, followed by ideal conditions of cool mornings and warm, sunny days throughout the summer months. Our first grapes of the season were “blessed” on August 25, officially beginning the St. Francis harvest. A few days of intense heat at the beginning of September sped up ripening throughout the region. Well-timed picks throughout the month meant the majority of fruit was in by the first week of October. Beautiful color, well-defined aromatics and outstanding flavor are all evident in this year’s vintage.

VINEYARDS

We source our Pinot Noir fruit from vineyards located in the cooler areas of Sonoma County including Sonoma Coast, Russian River Valley and Bennett Valley. These areas experience a marine influence from the Pacific Ocean and San Pablo Bay as cool air, fog and wind rolls in at night during the summer, dropping temperatures substantially. This natural air-conditioning is ideal for Pinot Noir as it allows the grapes to develop deep flavors while retaining natural acidity.

WINEMAKING

To capture the distinct varietal characteristics of each vineyard, the lots are fermented separately starting with a five to ten day cold soak to extract optimal color and flavor. After a long, slow fermentation the wine is racked off into French Oak barrels, 25% new, where it undergoes natural malolactic fermentation followed by aging for eight months before blending and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This ruby-hued Pinot Noir offers an abundance of tart red cherry and baking spice aromas followed by a burst of flavors with notes of pomegranate, juicy strawberry, fresh raspberry and chamomile tea. This expressive wine has a soft and silky texture that finishes with a bit of toasted nut and orange zest.



ST·FRANCIS
WINERY & VINEYARDS

