

# 2016 Pinot Noir Ridgetop Vineyard - Sonoma Coast



## THE VINEYARD

2016 was our seventh vintage sourcing fruit from the Ridgetop Vineyard, owned and managed by Thomas Rivers Brown and Fred Schrader. Ulises Valdez cares for the vineyard with precise attention to detail demanded by this extreme site. Ridgetop is located in the remote coastal mountains along the northern Sonoma Coast near Annapolis. Surrounded by redwoods at approximately 1100 feet above the Pacific, the salty sea air and ocean breezes are ever present, with thick fog receding each day to present ideal ripening conditions for Pinot noir. The vines produce minuscule yields each vintage, with concentrated flavors, provocative aromatics, and silky texture as they struggle to grow in Goldridge loam soils and a collection of old silt, sandstone, and remnants of ancient seabed.

## WINEMAKER NOTES

In 2016, California experienced a fifth year of severe drought conditions, resulting in small grape clusters with tiny berries. Yields were slightly higher than in 2015 as the vines were more in balance. Moderate summer temperatures allowed sugar levels and flavor development to progress slowly and evenly. A few brief heat spikes gave way to a cooler than normal August, allowing for longer hang times without rapid sugar accumulation. The resulting wines are robust with deep, concentrated flavors combined with a remarkable freshness. Yields were half of normal in 2016. Clones 115, 667 and 777 were harvested separately and vinified in small 1-ton fermenters. The blend showcases the exotic fruit character the vineyard is known for, with increased structure and density resulting from the small berry sizes and tiny clusters offered this vintage.

## FERMENTATION & BOTTLING DETAILS

- 100% de-stemmed Pinot noir
- Open-top fermentation
- Native yeast
- 50% new French oak
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered
- Bottled August 2017

## FINISHED WINE DETAILS

- Alcohol: 14.4%
- pH: 3.71
- TA: 5.8 g/L
- Release date: Fall 2018
- Retail price: \$59
- 350 cases produced
- AVA: Sonoma Coast

## TASTING SALON

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## ABOUT THE WINERY

Based in the town of Sonoma, Sojourn Cellars is a highly acclaimed winery specializing in the production of artisan Pinot noir, Chardonnay, and Cabernet Sauvignon wines.

We source fruit from celebrated vineyards in both Sonoma and Napa Counties, and we help direct farming operations to assure that our grapes are produced using world-class growing techniques. We have consistently produced high-quality wines with a hands-off natural winemaking style that showcases the character and personality of individual vineyards.