



# 2016 Pinot Noir Rodgers Creek Vineyard - Sonoma Coast

## THE VINEYARD

Rodgers Creek Vineyard is well suited for Pinot noir, sitting high on a ridge in the heart of the Petaluma Gap, and taking the full brunt of wind and thick fog that define this cool climate zone. Two blocks of the Pommard Pinot noir clone provide the foundation for this wine, with clone 777 adding a layer of bright fruit and lush textures. The vines grow in light, chalky volcanic ash soils on steep inclines. This causes natural vine stress and gives the wine high concentration levels. The combination of unique soils and dominance of the Pommard clone results in a distinctive wine with signature aromatic notes of earth and mushroom each vintage.

## 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. In 2016, tiny berries resulted in high levels of concentration and depth. We whole-cluster fermented 15% of the Rodgers Creek Pommard clone, adding aromatic complexity and verve. We emphasized the use of new oak barrels made from the Bertranges forest near Nevers, France, which tends to offer earthy umami characteristics that enhance the earth and mushroom notes of the Pommard clone in this wine.

## FERMENTATION & BOTTLING DETAILS

- 100% Pinot noir (15% whole cluster)
- Open-top fermentation
- Native yeast
- 50% new French oak
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered
- Bottled June 2017

## FINISHED WINE DETAILS

- Alcohol: 14.2%
- pH: 3.7
- TA: 5.9 g/L
- Release date: Spring 2018
- Retail price: \$48
- 800 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.

**Craig Haserot**  
Proprietor

**Erich Bradley**  
Winemaker

**Randy Bennett**  
Associate Winemaker