



2017 Pinot Noir

Ridgetop Vineyard - Sonoma Coast



THE VINEYARD

Ridgetop Vineyard is owned and managed by Thomas Rivers Brown and Fred Schrader. The late Ulises Valdez cared for the vineyard with precise attention to detail demanded by this extreme site. His son, Ulises Jr., has since taken over the reins with the same commitment to quality. Ridgetop is located in the remote coastal mountains along the northern Sonoma Coast near Annapolis. Surrounded by redwoods at approximately 1,100 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

The 2017 vintage endured tragic wildfires that were driven by 80 mph winds on October 8–9. The fires devastated Napa and Sonoma counties, destroyed more than 8,000 structures, took 44 lives and disrupted winery operations for several days. Fortunately, all of our Pinot noir grapes were picked prior to the fires and there was no impact to our 2017 Pinot noir wines. Balanced vines and temperature fluctuations resulted in layers of flavors and complexity in the wines. The overall high quality of the vintage is a blessing after such challenging events. Yields were half of normal in 2017. 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 intensity 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 2018

FINISHED WINE DETAILS

- Alcohol: 14.4%
- pH: 3.69
- TA: 5.7 g/L
- Release date: Fall 2019
- Retail price: \$59
- 400 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