

Kent Rasmussen Winery

2019 Napa Valley Pinot Noir

Chemistry at Bottling

- pH: 3.60
- Total Acidity: 6.0 grams/liter -Alcohol: 13.7%

Bottling Date, Production Blend, Appellation

- October 1, 2020
- 216 cases (12x750ml)
- 100% Pinot Noir
- 100% Napa Valley, Jameson Canyon “R” clone taken from cuttings out of our original Cuttings Wharf Vineyard by vineyard owner Ken Nerlove

Barrel Age

100% one and two year old French Oak, 12 months

PINOT NOIR IS EVERY WINEMAKER’S HOLY GRAIL. There is no such thing as a mediocre Pinot Noir—there is good or there is bad—no middle ground. I have always prided myself on making it well, and on the odd occasion when it wasn’t good, I tried to have the good sense to disown it quickly and quietly. So, making a Pinot Noir is a statement about superlatives—the best of the best; it is about finding beauty and warmth all in one place.

The grapes for this wonderful wine came from Ken Nerlove’s vineyard (Ken is a dear friend) high up on the side of Elkhorn Peak in the very coolest part of Jameson Canyon (1/2 mile east of Carneros). If grapes could see, they would have known that they were from the vineyard with the best view in the Napa Valley...the whole San Francisco Bay. Grapes can’t see, but being in such a direct path to the Bay’s cool breezes is the exact thing needed to grow fabulously complex and fruity Pinot Noir.

The grapes were night-harvested, so they showed up at the winery ice cold. They were destemmed – but not crushed – into half-ton fermentation tanks. Yeast started to grow as they warmed over the next few days. We “punched down” the must by hand five times a day for about 2 weeks, then drained off the free-run and sent the wine directly to barrel. Malolactic fermentation took all winter to complete and the wine was racked only twice from barrel to barrel. Then into the bottle it went. Simplicity is what Pinot Noir needs to maintain its complexity. Our cellar treatment was simple and this wine is indeed very complex! Blackberry, rose and blueberry are the most dominant notes, with flavors of oak and a rich mouth feel. I hope you enjoy this wine.