



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

The Thornton Ranch is situated on the ridge above the Petaluma Gap. At 1400 ft elevation, it receives a very direct ocean influence even if somewhat mediated by its slightly protected eastern exposure. The stunning view from the vineyard faces east across the southern Sonoma Valley to the Mayacamas. It is such a cool site, our vineyard crew has nicknamed this block Alaska! It is planted to a famous if shy bearing Pinot Noir heirloom selection, Calera, known for its concentration. The soils consist of lava rock and decomposed volcanic sediment. An exceptional combination of Pinot Noir selection and site, producing boldly colored and richly flavored wines of great concentration.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

The 2023 growing season was long and cool yielding grapes with a great balance of acidity and intensity. Quite a contrast to the warm, early 2022 season. Crop levels were moderate, requiring a light veraison thinning to maximize quality. The vines enjoyed a stress free growing season, beginning with adequate Spring rains, a cool and later than normal start to the season and without heat spikes over the Summer.

ABOUT THE WINE...

The grapes were destemmed into our 1-ton, open top fermenters and cold soaked for 4 days. We punched down by hand 4 times per day tapering down as the fermentation progressed. A warm fermentation, peaking about 94°, with additional maceration and skin contact ensured a generous extraction from these stubborn grapes. The wine was aged in French barrels from the Tonnellerie Remond and Francois Freres cooperage, 40% of them new. The wine was racked once prior to bottling. Until bottling, all wine movements were made by pushing with inert gas. 102 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

Densely colored Pinot Noir bursting of red berry fruit, wild cherry, and blueberry. Very primal at first, with unctuous texture and loaded with fruit. Long flavors with bright mouthwatering acidity delineate the palate. As the wine opens, glimpses of its underlying structure appear, but are largely overwhelmed by its lush forward fruit. With time, the wine gradually opens up to greater complexity with spice notes and subtle hibiscus notes. Drinking beautiful now, but we look forward to watching this first release evolve over time.