



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

The Fiddlestix Vineyard is located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA, which straddle the Santa Ynez River as it makes its way to the Pacific Ocean. As an East-West oriented valley, opening its mouth to the cool Pacific breezes, the consistent and cooling marine influence is significant. The vineyard is managed and owned in partnership by Kathy Joseph, who has planted an array of clones and rootstocks on several, varied soils to create a staggering level of diversity from this single vineyard. The remarkably consistent weather, characterized by lower highs and higher lows than our North Coast vineyards, conspires with silica-laden, marine sedimentary soils to make wines of power and exceptional structure. This vintage marks our eighth working with Kathy and this remarkable vineyard.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

Timing is everything in life as well as in the vineyard. 2014 marked another year of record-breaking drought, however the year began with adequate soil moisture supported by well-timed rains resulting in an overall pleasant growing season. Warm and moderate weather with plenty of sun ripened grapes completely and made this an early budding and early harvesting vintage. Since everything was basically ready to pick at the same time, this made for an extremely intense harvest of long hours to ensure all the grapes received the attention they needed. Similar to the last two vintages, this year gave us an average sized crop with this one yielding soft, hedonistic wines that showed delicious fruit very early on – even in the barrel far before bottling!

ABOUT THE WINE...

The grapes were 100% destemmed into an open top fermenter and cold soaked for 5 days. We utilized a combination of hand punch-downs and a submerged cap device in order to optimally control extraction from the skins. We fermented with a combination of RC212 and Assmannshausen yeasts, with a peak temperature of 94°F. The wine was aged for 17 months in an array of Francois Frères and Remond cooperage, entirely of Bertrange Oak and a majority new. We held the wine in bottle for nearly a year before release. 172 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

This is a bold and generous Pinot, rambunctious in its youth with plenty to give over years in the cellar. The nose is densely packed with rich notes of black cherry, blackberry, wet slate, and blood orange. Intense fresh fruits lead the palate, and the focus settles on ripe flavors of blackberry, cassis, and currants intermixed with spicy peppercorn, and tobacco notes. Brilliant acidity provides brightness and balance while firm, mouth-filling tannins emphasize structure, always a strong suit for this wine. The spicy aromatics continue through the long finish. Cellaring this wine for a decade or beyond will reveal a silky texture hidden beneath layers of strong tannins that dominate its early years.