



### **ABOUT THE VINEYARD...**

Our Carneros Pinot Noir comes entirely from the Toyon Vineyard, located in the Napa side of Carneros. This vineyard was originally planted for us in 1998 with cuttings tracing back to the Swan estate in Sonoma County and Dijon 115 - followed by cuttings from Ed Penhoet's vineyard in Carmel Valley. Ed's selection from River Selection is a story into itself (ask us sometime!), and is sometimes referred as "Pisoni Clone" since Gary Pisoni took cuttings from the vineyard in the early '80s.

### **ABOUT THE VINTAGE...**

Ample rain brought an end to our five-year drought and the 2017 vintage produced the high quality of fruit that we had enjoyed in the prior seasons. It was an unusually wet year with a mild spring that allowed the vigorous vines to flower extensively. Record-breaking heat in the days leading to harvest fully ripened the grapes, developing sugar and flavor, while cool nights ensured wines would retain mouthwatering acidity. Our harvest wrapped up, with wine aging in barrel and safe from smoke damage, long before the October fires visited Napa. Deliciously juicy, our wines excited our palates months before bottling!

### **ABOUT THE WINE...**

We separated the entire lot into one ton, open-top fermenters, employing traditional punch-downs by hand in order to achieve optimal extraction. About 5% of the fruit was fermented as whole clusters. The wine was aged in an array of French cooperage, nearly half new, and gently racked once prior to bottling. Grapes, must, and wines were moved using gravity through to the barrel and using inert gas through racking and bottling. 948 cases produced.

### **TASTING NOTES...**

Baking spice sings in an endless symphony with wild berry notes, complemented by characteristic Carneros notes of cola. Juicy cherry notes grace the palate and combine seamlessly with anise and hibiscus, ending on a savory note. The palate is round and full of textural, mouth-coating tannins balanced by a bright acidity. Broad chewy tannins, earthy spices and minerality complement the fruit and exotic floral notes of this wine. The palate of this delicious wine will continue to develop in opulence over years of aging, revealing even darker layers and an increasingly smooth texture.