



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

Our association with Toyon Farm has been a grand partnership dating back to 1998. The next generation has begun as Rob Bonavito has taken the reins of this exceptional vineyard. It is located on a southwest-facing slope on the eastern (Napa) side of the Carneros. The topsoil is dark rich clay, averaging just around 24 inches in depth. These soils promote dark brooding fruit, emphasizing texture and tannin. The Toyon designate is now entirely from a block of Pinot noir planted on the north slope of the vineyard. The cuttings are originally from a famous vineyard in Burgundy, via Ed Penhoet's River Ranch vineyard planted in the '70s (and beginning in 2017 an Ancien vineyard designate). As the original source of the Pisoni vineyard – it also referred to as "Pisoni Clone" or River Ranch selection, which preceded it.

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

The 2021 growing season was a welcome success after a more varied and challenging 2020. The vines came on with aplomb, demonstrating the rich fruit concentration we expect – even if the crop was meager. The ongoing drought in California served to further accentuate the character and concentration of the fruit. While warmer conditions have prevailed in other areas, the coastal areas of California continue to benefit from the maritime influence and moderating influence that it brings.

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

We separated the entire lot into 1 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 with a gentle push of inert gas through racking and bottling. 85 cases produced.

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

The Toyon Farm designate from Carneros is characteristically dark and textural. The 2021 is brimming with wild blackberries, chocolate, and kirsch. On the palate is lush, soft and mouthcoating. Chewy tannins and fresh herbs linger in the finish. It is a Pinot Noir on the bolder side, well suited for richer dishes and reduction sauces. Drinking very well at release, and will continue to evolve for 4 – 7 years.