



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

The Red Dog Vineyard sits atop Sonoma Mountain on the cool, western side. In 2000 Tom and Debbie Engel planted this vineyard - with the replant happening in 2015. We used cuttings from our Mink Vineyard - a proprietary heirloom selection of Swan Pinot Noir. The vineyard is situated on the eastern face of a ridge, and the top is just under 1000 feet elevation. At this height, Pacific currents moving inland through the Petaluma Gap cool the vineyard almost continually. The soils are some of the most ancient soils in Sonoma County and have been leached of nutrients by wind and rain for eons. It is a truly spectacular vista point but a challenging place to grow grapes.

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 low vigor, austere site that is Red Dog further enhances the intensity of this unique fruit. We expect the 2021 vintage to reward now and years down the road for those you cellar some.

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 entirely in French barrels from the Tonnellerie Remond cooperage, and a majority of those barrels were new. The wine was raked once prior to bottling. Until bottling, all wine movements were made by pushing with inert gas. 45 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

Lively nose, but deeper and denser than we expect from Red Dog in vintages past. The nose is dominated with boysenberry, raspberry, rose hips, and subtle tangerine notes followed by deeper aromas of tea, cedar, and hints of forest floor. Spice notes of lavender, hibiscus and sage, the fruit expands in the glass and fills the palate with fresh pomegranate, cherry, and mandarin. It opens slowly in the glass providing evidence of great things to come. This is a very lively wine that surprises the palate from beginning to end. Drink at release or 5 - 7 years plus.