



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

The Red Dog Vineyard sits near the top of 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, with the highest point 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 2022 growing season follows on the exceptional 2021 season. An early season cold spell and inclement weather during bloom led to low crop levels. Well timed rains, together with the lower crop, ensured nice growth. A late heat spell in early September brought the grapes to full ripeness earlier than average.

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 92°, 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, 50% of which were new. The wine was racked once prior to bottling. Until bottling, all wine movements were made by pushing with inert gas. 175 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

Floral notes that dance above the glass reveal the essence of Red Dog Pinot Noir. The nose is dominated with elegant aromas of raspberry, rose hips, with subtle tangerine notes followed by deeper aromas of tea and cedar. 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 lay down for 7 to 10 years plus.