



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

The Mink Vineyard is located next door to the winery, in the Coombsville Viticultural Area of Napa Valley. Open to the same morning fogs and afternoon breezes that cool Carneros to the west, Coombsville is consistently one of the coolest pockets in Napa. Mink sits inside a small "bowl", allowing cooler air to settle during the evenings, and making Mink's mesoclimate a couple degrees cooler, even, than the surrounding hills. But the real secret to Mink's explosive flavors, smooth, mouth-coating minerality, comes from the soil. Underneath is a layer of compressed volcanic ash, called tufa. The tufa drains the topsoil, storing moisture in its porous structure. The vines are able, with some work, to grow roots into the tufa layer, accessing moisture during the long, dry growing season.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

The 2020 growing season saw California's drought ramp up in intensity. A very long dry season with moderate temperatures most of the way kept the vines from undo stress. It will also be known for the tragic wild fires that engulfed much of California and Oregon in multiple phases. As the fire activity was centered to the north, the Fiddlestix Vineyard was unaffected. The crop was moderate, and the concentration exceptional in 2020.

ABOUT THE WINE...

The grapes were destemmed into small, one-ton, open-top fermenters, with traditional hand punch downs, and aged the wine in Billon cooperage, a barrel that tends to sit subtly underneath the delicate fruit, lifting aromas without crowding them. The wines were racked once, gently, prior to bottling. Grapes, must, and wines were moved using gravity through to the barrel and a gentle push with inert gas through racking and bottling. 262 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

The 2020 Mink Pinot Noir exhibits its typical bright and refreshing notes of pomegranate, cherry, and fresh herbs. It gradually opens to deeper and darker berry fruit, blueberry and plum. In the months after release, the wine will continue to pick up depth and density, as is normally the case. Its enchanting mouthwatering minerality invite sip after sip together with bite after bite. A lively wine at release but it will continue to improve over the next 2-4 years and can age well beyond a decade as shown by its 20+ year track record.