



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

Toyon Farm, owned by Ed and Camille Penhoet, 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 a 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. As the original source of the Pisoni vineyard – it also referred to as "Pisoni Clone" or River Ranch selection.

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

Small but intense, the 2015 vintage did not give us a lot of fruit to work with but what we received yielded outstanding wines. The drought continued and its effects were only exacerbated by unseasonable weather – warm in the winter on into spring resulted in early bud break, yet cold weather during flowering resulted in an uneven fruit set, which ultimately meant smaller crops. Once summer arrived, it brought warmth with it and led to another early harvesting vintage. Attention to detail in the vineyard meant that the grapes that made it to harvest were high quality . . . giving us wines with exciting flavors and a lot of personality!

### **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. 47 cases produced.

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

Our direct representation of the Toyon Farm terroir, this wine greets bright and well spiced, then melds effortlessly into a rich palate coating smoothness. The bouquet is filled with notes of dark berries, spiced herbs, and cola. The brooding palate, dominated by an almost visceral layer of mouth-coating tannins and mid-palate flavors of mocha, raspberry, and cranberry, is balanced with a bright, palate-lifting acidity. It finishes with round and chewy chocolaty tannins that accentuate a firm chalky finish that offers promise for greater things to come. This deep and balanced wine is structured to age gracefully for years, if you can keep a bottle around that long.

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