

WAYFARER

2023 PINOT NOIR 'THE TRAVELER'

TASTING NOTES | A shimmering ruby in the glass, the 2023 Pinot Noir 'The Traveler' expresses perfumed aromas of wild alpine strawberry, pomegranate and cranberry, accompanied by rose petal, blood orange peel, anise and crushed stone. There is a nimbleness on the palate that contrasts with deep concentration of flavor, creating an ethereal quality that persists through a long and complex finish. Continually evolving in the glass, a signature of The Traveler, the wine shifts from bright fruit character to savory minerality and back. The longest-lived of the Wayfarer bottlings, the 2023 Traveler will reward patience in the cellar.

VINTAGE NOTES | Moderate and extended vintages like we experienced in 2023 are ideal for producing classically styled wines with great aging potential. The 2023 vintage began with a cool and wet spring, delaying budbreak weeks later than usual. A mild May and June extended the bloom period nearly three weeks, further delaying an already late vintage. July and August brought warmth and sunshine with above average temperatures driving berry development and ripening, before transitioning into cooler weather in September. Harvest began on September 25th and carried well into October, ending on the 16th, our latest harvest on record. The temperate yet sunny days post-veraison created beautiful flavor and tannin development while retaining freshness and compelling savory notes. The 2023 Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays shine with finesse and quiet power, truly nuanced, multi-dimensional wines.

WINEMAKING NOTES | Each block was picked by hand at night, and firm, cool clusters were delivered to the winery before sunrise. We hand-sorted and fully destemmed the fruit before transferring it into stainless steel tanks for five to six days of cold maceration. Fermentation was carried out by native yeast, and we punched the cap down by hand, with the frequency and technique determined by tasting each tank daily. The free run wine aged in 228L French oak barrels, 38% new, for 15 months prior to bottling.

ABOUT | Our most dynamic wine, The Traveler continually transforms in the glass. Defined by sweeping aromatics, remarkable vibrancy, complex savory tones and a persistent and concentrated finish, The Traveler will age beautifully for a decade or more. These vines were originally cuttings from a Grand Cru vineyard in Vosne-Romanée.

ACCLAIM | "Very distinctive, with black cherries, dark strawberries, red roses and touches of black pepper and other spices on the nose. Medium-bodied with creamy tannins and texture and a long finish. It's very structured, but the tannins are resolved. The acid drives the wine, giving a unique drinking experience. Give this some time. Better from 2028." 99 Points, *James Suckling*, February 2025

"The 2023 Pinot Noir The Traveler has a bright ruby red hue and leads with focused, lifted aromas of dusty, rocky earth, grenadine, bright red berries, fresh flowers, cranberries, bright spice, and orange peel. It's focused and compact on the palate, with fantastic linear drive and electricity, and it has a long feel, a stony texture, and a more angular and age-worthy, noble structure. Stash this away for a few years and drink 2026-2046." 98+ Points, *Audrey Frick, Jeb Dunnock*, July 2025

ORIGIN	Wayfarer Vineyard, Fort Ross-Seaview
BLOCKS	9, 18
CLONE	Wayfarer
PRUNING	Double guyot
VINE YIELD	3.1 lbs/vine
HARVESTED	October 3-6, 2023
BOTTLED	December 18, 2024
ALCOHOL	14.1%
pH	3.38
TA	6.7 g/L
PRODUCTION	170 cases
WINEMAKER	Todd Kohn