



WAYFARER

2012 **PINOT NOIR** GOLDEN MEAN

TASTING NOTES

This wine possesses an intense dark ruby color. The complex nose reveals violets, blackberries and strawberries with fresh Herbes de Provence and a hint of anise followed by an intriguing cigar box and forest floor character. The wine exudes a unique freshness reminiscent of the Sonoma Coast air infused with the fragrance of pine trees. The Pommard clone's depth and power is undeniable while the Swan clone's finesse slowly advances to the forefront, unveiling seductive floral and spicy notes. Tannins are supple and dense with a texture that expands in the mid-palate, lingering for many seconds with aromas of violets and red berries. The synergy between these two clones is extraordinarily captivating and symphonious.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2012 growing year began with average rainfall and steady, moderate temperatures. A mild spring led to a warm, dry summer, providing ideal conditions for vine growth. Our vineyard crew worked diligently to control vigor and manage the leaf canopy to ensure well-formed, consistent clusters by early summer. Veraison occurred in early August. Mid to late-summer temperatures never spiked, allowing the fruit to ripen slowly and steadily – the hallmark of a great vintage. Vines yielded generous fruit that required repeat thinning to obtain desired concentration and vine balance. We began harvesting the Swan clone in Block 20 on September 22 and finished harvesting Pommard Blocks 5 and 26a by October 3. Fruit achieved both ideal aromatic maturity and physiological development.

WINEMAKING NOTES

We hand-picked and hand-sorted the fruit, reserving 10% for whole-cluster fermentation prior to de-stemming. The remaining berries were de-stemmed and hand-sorted again before transfer to tank. Five to seven days of cold maceration preceded more than two weeks of 100% native yeast fermentation. The fruit was then gently pressed, its free-run juice transferred to 80% new French oak barrels for 15 months of aging.

ACCLAIM

“A more masculine, virile expression of Sonoma Coast Pinot emerges from the 2012 Pinot Noir Golden Mean. Dark cherries, new leather and savory herbs blossom in a big, broad-shouldered wine endowed with tremendous power. There is plenty of upside here.” 93+ points. Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, Feb 2014

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ORIGIN	Wayfarer Vineyard, Fort Ross-Seaview, Sonoma Coast
BLOCKS	5, 20, 26a
CLONES	Pommard 4, Pommard 5, Swan
WINEMAKER	Bibiana González Rave
PRUNING	Double guyot
VINE YIELD	Less than 3 pounds
HARVESTED	September 23 - October 2, 2012
BOTTLED	December 20, 2013
RELEASED	Fall 2014
COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir
ALCOHOL	14.5%
pH	3.55
TA	6.1 g/l
PRODUCTION	250 cases

