



2018 NORIA Pinot Noir – Russian River Valley/Freestone <Michael Valentine Vineyard>

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Alc: 13.5%

Details

“Sensai” is a Japanese word for elegant, subtle, nuanced, and detailed. It means the essential balance. Our ultimate goal is to produce the wine that is “sensai”, which is intuitive and touches the heart. Occidental/Freestone is a unique area that has a potential to produce our dream wine. Located in the Russian River Valley (RRV) AVA, it is the coolest vineyard spot in Northern California. Pinot Noir from this area is completely different from any other. It is pure and sensible. We source Dijon clone 777 from Michael Valentine Vineyard in the Freestone area of RRV. Berries are small and look like black pearls.

Winemaking

After 7 days of cold soak, whole berries are fermented in both an open top fermenter and new barrels. It is aged in 100% French oak (60% new) for 14 months and bottled without any fining and filtration.

Vintage

2018 can be one of the best vintages in decade. Bud-break started very late with cool spring. However, benign, mild summer enabled grapes to develop slowly but steadily. There was almost no heat spell after veraison and dry weather kept the harvest until mid November. This long season gave us opportunities to pick grapes at ultimate maturity levels. This vintage brings intensity and complexity.

Tasting notes

Intense aromas of raspberry, violet, a hint of dark cherry, rose-petal, and seductive bouquets of cedar, white pepper, and caramel. Flagrant entry. Stylish, refreshing red berry flavor quickly expands on the palate. Vibrant acidity and silky mouthfeel melt into an elegant, long finish. A hint of sweet oak and spice notes add nuance and complexity. Seductive and intricate.