

# SYNTHESIS

## PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

*Designed to be a balance of integration, Synthesis is a culmination of contrasting elements. Inspired by the nuances and depth of its parts, we blend our top barrels each vintage to represent this iconic appellation.*

### THE WINE

The cornerstone of our Pinot Noir program, our Estate represents the most Burgundian of all our single vineyards, offering a core of lean, bracing acidity with complex fruit, and distinctive aromatics. Our location, in the geographic center of Russian River Valley, is defined by its cool marine influence, filtered in from the South by the Petaluma Gap. Even throughout the summer, a fog layer clings to the low-lying valley regions late into the morning, creating a temperature variation of nearly 35 degrees between day and night. This distinct climate, coupled with the clonal diversity of our Estate, are key elements, and integral in the evolution of our final blend. A harmonious balance, Synthesis, in essence, flaunts the finest characteristics from each of its diverse components.

### OUR ESTATE

Planted in 2011, our 12-acre estate vineyard is comprised of six different clones grown in highly regarded Goldridge soil. The largest section of our vineyard, which slopes down toward the Laguna de Santa Rosa is planted with notable Dijon clones including 667, 777, 115, 828, and 943. Our smaller vineyard, The Tower Block, is comprised entirely of Clone 37, which is our legacy to our winery's namesake.

### A C C L A I M

2021		93 PTS, JAMES SUCKLING
2020		93 PTS, JAMES SUCKLING
2019		93 PTS, JAMES SUCKLING
2019		90 PTS, JEB DUNNUCK
2018		94 PTS, JAMES SUCKLING
2018		91 PTS, WINE ADVOCATE
2017		93 PTS, JAMES SUCKLING
2017		91 PTS, WINE SPECTATOR
2016		90 PTS, JAMES SUCKLING





**AVA** | *EST. 1983 | 96,000 acres total, 50,000 acres under vine*

**VINEYARD** | *Martin Ray Estate - Tower Block and Home Ranch Block*

**SOIL** | *Goldridge soil*

**STYLE** | *Balanced fruit, weight and tannin*

#### WINEMAKING NOTES

The clones are fermented separately in single open-top fermenters. Gentle punch-downs followed with a brief maceration period. Maintained at moderate temperatures until dry, basket-pressed, and racked to new French oak for approximately 12 months. Blended two weeks prior to bottling to achieve ideal balance.

**CLONE 37** *Mount Eden clone (UCD 37). 1992. The original budwood was brought to California from Burgundy by Paul Masson in 1895 and planted on St. George rootstock in the Saratoga Hills at his La Cresta Ranch in 1896. The origins of Masson's budwood is not documented but it is rumored that Louis Latour's father gave Masson cuttings from Corton and Corton Charlemagne. Some have also speculated that the source was vineyards at Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. These vines would become the source of Pinot Noir for many other California vineyards. Martin Ray took cuttings of Pinot Noir most likely from nearby La Cresta to plant at Mount Eden in 1945.*

**CLONE 667** *1980. Big, tight compact cluster about the same size as 777, strong color, hi-tone and quality aromas, dark cherry, raspberry, strawberry, spice flavors, fleshy, firm, angular, thick but soft tannin. Variable quality depending on the site varying from green apple simplicity in warm sites where it accumulates sugar too quickly to deep Christmas spice mix (allspice, nutmeg, clove) in cooler sites. A workhorse structural clone, often de-stemmed.*

**CLONE 777** *1981. Small, compact cluster, small berries, low-yielding, strong and intense color due to thick skins and higher seed count, very aromatic with dense and complex black fruit flavors (black cherry, cassis), with leather, tobacco, and earthy notes. Can be a powerful, monster of a wine almost Cabernet-like if not carefully farmed. Highly structured with tannin structure to age.*

**CLONE 943** *Very small berries (among the smallest of all the Dijon clones), low seed counts, small clusters (smaller than clones 115 and 777), more open bunches, low yields, higher sugar content, intense flavors of red berry fruit. One of the few Dijon clones where the French negotiated a royalty payment for every bud sold in the U.S.*

*\*PinotFile articles 945 and 2261*