



Martin Ray

VINEYARDS & WINERY

Martin Ray's history and deep commitment to Pinot Noir were paramount to the variety's future in California. A pioneer, Ray modeled his winemaking after the practices of Burgundy – crafting terroir-driven wines from iconic appellations, with a hands-off approach. While historically California winemakers were calling their wine burgundy, he forged the path and became the first American vintner to designate Pinot Noir on his label, setting the precedent and standard for future practices.

PINOT NOIR: OUR HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY & CELLAR PRACTICES

In an effort to produce a portfolio that pays honorable tribute to our history and Ray's dedication, we source our grapes from premier sites throughout California. We start with quality fruit but continue our appreciation of the complexities of the varietal by doing very little once it is harvested. With minimal intervention and manipulation, Pinot Noir has the ability to truly deliver its best nuances on the palate – delicate yet lively, juicy yet earthy – and above all balanced.

100% PINOT NOIR

LONG TERM SOURCING

COOL-CLIMATE VINEYARDS

HARVESTED AT LOW BRIX

MINIMAL INTERVENTION & MANIPULATION

SMALL LOT FERMENTATION

FRENCH OAK ON ALL LOTS





PINOT NOIR PROGRAM

We make 100% Pinot Noir. Every appellation has a specific set of needs in the vineyard – and in the winery – and expresses a distinctive sense of terroir once the grapes are in the bottle. Our winemaker begins shaping each wine while it's still in the vineyard and vinifies each in small lots at our winery. Using a hands-off approach, we want the terroir to shine through and each bottle to reflect the true nature of Pinot Noir. Always vibrant and expressive, with brilliant high tones and silky, refined tannins, which highlight the complexity of Pinot Noir.

APPELLATIONS

CALIFORNIA

With diverse microclimates throughout, our great state is rich in regions that usher quality, and typicity, showcasing the depth of terroir each appellation offers.



RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

Warm daytime highs and cool evenings are ideal for growing Pinot Noir. The striking contrast of the concentration and complexity of fruit and high acidity make it most notable.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

Our heritage lies in these mountains, so it is with great intention that we make Santa Cruz Pinot Noir to continue Ray's legacy. Differing greatly in elevation, soil, and climate, producing unique wines compared to their Sonoma counterparts.

WINEMAKING

While impeccable fruit is key, we take great care in every step of the winemaking process. Depending on the lot and vintage, we impart 15%-25% whole cluster fermentation and partial indigenous yeast fermentation. Separated by clone, we use small lot open top fermenters, implementing consistent gentle punch downs for cap management. The must is then gently basket pressed. We use only French oak on all lots, with a distinct selection of coopers based on each individual appellation and program.

Each vintage of our Pinots, while offering characteristics indicative of the growing season, has an inherent earthy core and lasting, vibrant salinity, showcasing its typicity and the terroir from which it heralds.

DIRECTOR OF WINEMAKING: Leslie Renaud

WINEMAKER: Raemy Paterson