



PINOT NOIR
MOONSHINE RANCH VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
2021



GROWING YEAR

2021 was the driest year on record since they started keeping record 127 years ago. It was also the third year of drought conditions for Sonoma County. Contrary to these conditions, the summer was relatively cool and started two weeks later than the previous year. The drought conditions did bring ripeness to each of our varieties at just about the same time. By the end of the first week, we had 40% of total tonnage in the winery. This included Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel from both Fort Ross-Seaview and Russian River Valley. Despite being a very compact harvest, small clusters and berry size have yielded exceptional quality which makes 2021 a standout vintage.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

This petite vineyard was planted in 1995 and 1996 at 2,500 vines per acre and is situated on rocky fertile ground with lots of exposed cobblestones. The rows are north/south oriented, which allows for indirect sunlight to influence the even ripening clusters. Three Dijon clones were grafted onto rootstock to match climate behavior and the unique properties of each specific soil series. Moonshine Ranch is named for the century-old draughty barn on the property. The high raftered building stands as a relic of times of old, as its heyday was during the prohibition era, serving as a small factory for prune brandy.

TASTING NOTES

Enticing aromas of blackberry, vanilla, and blood orange are found in the nose. Voluminous upon entry, the mouth has rich flavors of blackberry and chicory. Black cherry is present in the long, weighty finish.

2021 Vintage

96 points – Erin Brooks, *Wine Advocate*

94 points – J. Molesworth, *Wine Spectator*

2019 Vintage

93 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*

93 points – Erin Brooks, *Wine Advocate*

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

Oak: 50% new French Oak,
50% neutral French Oak, 10 months

Case Production: 345

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type:
Huichicha

Rootstock:
101-14, 3309

Clones:
115,114, 113 and starting in 2010 Reserve