



PINOT NOIR
BLUE SLIDE RIDGE • FORT ROSS-SEAVIEW
2023



GROWING YEAR

When we look back at the 2023 growing season there are two words that perfectly describe the vintage - late and big. After an exceptionally wet and cool winter, bud break happened over a month later than average. Our first day of picking was the day after the harvest completed the previous year. Fruit set was excellent and the temps during the summer were moderate to cool, with very few days in the triple digits. What a contrast from 2022! Mild temperatures along with abundantly available water allowed the clusters to develop slowly and evenly.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

Blue Slide Ridge is named for its magnificent formations of blue rock. Directly below the vineyard, a sheer cliff drops into the small winding “Marshall Creek”, showing off great cerulean shards jutting out from beneath the earth’s surface. In 1995 Lee Sr. and Carolyn Martinelli planted this six-acre vineyard of Pinot Noir on a steep slope, under the guidance of Helen Turley. This site was once prime grazing land for sheep, located on the second ridge inland from the Pacific coastline.

TASTING NOTES

Bold and nuanced with aromas of black plum, licorice root, and a touch of earthy spice. On the palate, it’s layered and expressive, unfolding flavors of tart rhubarb, bergamot, and dark berries. The structure is firm yet elegant, with a robust finish of ripe blueberry that echoes long after the last sip.

2023 VINTAGE

95 points – *Jeb Dunnuck/Aubrey Frick*

94 points - *J. Molesworth, Wine Spectator*

2022 VINTAGE

95 points – *Jeb Dunnuck/Aubrey Frick*

94 points - *J. Molesworth, Wine Spectator*

94 points- *Antonio Galloni, Vinous*

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: 237

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Josephine, Goldridge

Rootstock: 101-14, 3309

Clones: 115, 667, 777 and X Clone