

LA FOLLETTE WINES

AN ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH SINGULAR VINEYARDS

2016 PINOT NOIR

Hawk's Roost Vineyard Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

THE VINEYARD

Chuck Jones planted his 5.5-acre Russian River Valley Hawk's Roost Vineyard in 1992. It is planted entirely to UCD 23 clone, a selection imported from Wadenswil, Switzerland in 1966. Wines produced at this site are typically big and muscular, owing to a combination of clone and site. Row orientation is uncharacteristically east-west, which contributes to even ripening fruit. Chuck hand tends the vineyard personally, which wraps around his home. He employs the help of a few ducks that stroll the vineyard controlling weeds and insects alongside his loyal Labrador retrievers.

THE VINTAGE

2016 was another in a sequence of low-yielding years at Hawk's Roost, where the UCD 23 clone gives small berries and clusters with high-skin-to-juice ratio. With its natural open cluster formations and thicker skins, the grapes here were naturally resistant to mold spores during the humidity of late summer. The resulting wine has a dark, saturated hue and a concentration of flavor and structure.

THE WINE

Deeply scented bouquet of dark cherry, forest floor, myrrh. Juicy on entry, the palate is densely layered with mulberry, cocoa and bay leaf spice. Grape tannins, characteristic of the clone, build to the late palate, creating a fine tension between savory and fruit elements. This intensely structured wine finishes with bright acidity.

WINEMAKING

Harvest Date: September 6, 2016 100% Pinot Noir | UCD 23

Fermentation: all native primary and secondary ferments, matured in barrel,

25% new oak Alc. 13.8%

