



2016 Marjorie Vineyard Pinot Noir



The famed Marjorie Vineyard boasts Cristom's oldest estate plantings, predating the company back to 1982. Named in honor of winegrower-owner Tom Gerrie's grandmother, Marjorie is distinctive at Cristom both for being own-rooted, and for its lower-density plantings, (605 vines/acre; 1,495 vines/hectacre), with 6 feet between vines and 12 feet between rows. Because of these low density plantings, Marjorie is left with 18-22 clusters per vine, each weighing 70 - 80 grams/cluster depending on the vintage – a testament to the fact that this vineyard produces very small, highly concentrated clusters, and exceptionally dramatic wines.

"Cristom's Pinot Noirs have a purity of fruit, precision, balance, complexity, and elegance that put them in a class by themselves."
- Karen MacNeil, author of *The Wine Bible*

WINEMAKING

56% whole clusters of hand-harvested and hand-sorted fruit
100% native yeast fermentations
1-3 punch-downs daily in 1-1.5 ton open-top fermenters
Gently pressed in a pneumatic bladder press and moved to barrel by gravity
Undergoes a full malolactic fermentation in barrel
Fined with egg whites, unfiltered

ALC 13.5% **TA** 5.7 g/L **pH** 3.71

CLONES Pommard, Wädenswil and Dijon clones (115, 777)

BOTTLED April 24th, 2018 **PRODUCTION** 270 cases

COOPERAGE

18 months in French oak, 75% new

67% Tonnellerie François Frères
22% Tonnellerie Remond
14% Seguin Moreau
14% Tonnellerie Rousseau
14% Sirugue
14% Tonnellerie de Mercurey

Vintage Notes Throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2016, the sun was generous and warm and our vineyards trended 2-3 weeks early at every physiological stage with budbreak in March, bloom by the end of May and Harvest within the first few days of September. We had some variable weather and heat spikes throughout bloom leading to some very small berries and clusters, and after some thinning we achieved optimal yields that lead to wines of depth, intensity and concentration. In terms of heat accumulation, 2016 was actually on the 'cool' side of average with 2,340 growing degree days, yet with an unprecedentedly early start to the season, heat spikes in late August pushing things forward and the small berries and low yields makes this a much darker, richer and more powerfully structured vintage than the heat accumulation would suggest.



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