



2017 Louise Vineyard Pinot Noir



Planted in 1993, Louise Vineyard was named for Cristom winegrower & owner Tom Gerrie's great-grandmother, Louise Dinkelspiel. The lowest elevation Pinot Noir planting on the Cristom estate, Louise Vineyard can be distinctly separated into an "upper" and "lower" section, divided by a 150 ft. (45.7 m) slope. Because of this unique topography, Louise typically has both some of the earliest and latest fruit harvested each year; in the 2015 vintage, we recorded our earliest-ever pick date, bringing in the first estate fruit of the harvest from the Louise Vineyard on September 1st.

"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

49% whole clusters of hand-harvested and hand-sorted fruit
 100% native yeast fermentations
 1-3 punch-downs daily in 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 14.0% **TA** 5.5 g/L **pH** 3.70
CLONES Dijon (113, 114, 115, 777) & Pommard

COOPERAGE

18 months in French oak
 66% new

BOTTLED

April 3rd, 2019

PRODUCTION

701 cases

Vintage Notes With dramatic diurnal shifts, the cool weather at the end of the 2017 season allowed us to pick at our leisure with high acid and ripe phenological development. A little rain in the middle of September just before harvest was positive and extended the season by gaining hang time after a dry summer. It was beneficial for the vines to take a small drink of water and it helped them keep their canopies strong and hang their fruit longer into the season. The clusters were destined to be plentiful and big, so we were faced with the decision to drop fruit to reduce yield and demand on the vines. Sugar accumulation slowed and we made thoughtful decisions based on the phenolics and natural acidity rather than be rushed by the warm weather.



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