



2016 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

48% 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 13.5% **TA** 5.7 g/L **pH** 3.77
CLONES Dijon (113, 114, 115, 777) & Pommard
BOTTLED April 26th, 2018 **PRODUCTION** 728 cases

COOPERAGE

18 months in French oak, 56% new
 28% Tonnellerie François Frères
 22% Sirugue
 17% Tonnellerie Remond
 11% Tonnellerie de Mercurey
 11% Seguin Moreau
 11% Tonnellerie Atelier

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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