



2019 YU-KI ESTATE PINOT NOIR

WINE NOTES

VINEYARD

100% Yu-ki Estate, Sonoma Coast

FERMENTATION

5 day cold soak in open top fermenters, hand punched down 1 to 3 times per day, free run sent directly to barrel, press wine settled and barreled separately

BARREL AGING

11 months in French oak:
10% new
19% one-year-old
33% two-year-old
14% three-year-old
24% neutral

BOTTLING

July 2020

PRODUCTION

750 ml = 420 cases
1.5 L = 22 cases

Ken and Akiko bought the land for Yu-ki Estate in 2007 and planted our favorite heritage and Dijon clones of Pinot Noir there. The location is only five miles from the Pacific Ocean, 1,000 feet in elevation, above the town of Occidental. The vineyard is named after Akiko's nephew, Yu-ki, who lives in Japan. Yu-ki can also be translated to mean courage or big tree. This is significant in that this site is surrounded by old growth redwood trees, 22 acres of which the Freemans have donated to the Bodega Land Trust.

After Yu-ki's large 2018 crop, things settled back down to a typical Sonoma Coast yield of under 2 tons per acre in 2019. The growing season was actually very similar to 2018, and the winter rainfall was much more plentiful in 2019. If there were ever two back to back years of ideal weather for ripening Pinot Noir, these were the two. Yu-ki is a cooler climate site than all of our other vineyards, so it's always the last Pinot to come in for the vintage.

For the 2019 Yu-ki Estate Pinot Noir, we selected 20 barrels to go into this blend out of the 64 barrels of Yu-ki we produced. The clones are 2A, 23, 114, 667 and 828, which make up almost all the selections we have at Yu-ki. Seven Yu-ki barrels made it into the 2019 Akiko's Cuvée, and 37 went into the Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir.

Yu-ki Estate Pinot Noir always has a dark ruby color, due to the high skin to juice ratio in the tiny Pinot Noir grapes that grow in this coastal site. The 2019 Yu-ki has aromas of brambly wild huckleberries, wet earth, forest floor, molasses, and chanterelle mushrooms. The palate is a seamless blend of perfectly ripe fruit flavors, moderate tannins, and refreshing acidity. Each year that the Yu-ki vineyard matures, the flavors get more complex, and the palate gets more structured. As with all great vineyards, the longevity of the wines increases as the vines get older. Enjoy the 2019 Yu-ki from 2022 through 2032.

