



2015 GLORIA ESTATE PINOT NOIR

WINE NOTES

VINEYARD

100% Gloria Estate, Russian River Valley

CLONES

27% Calera

27% Swan

18% Pommard

17% Dijon 115

11% Martini

FERMENTATION

Five-day cold soak in open-top fermenters, hand-punched down one to three times per day, free run sent directly to barrel, press wine settled and barreled separately

BARREL AGING

11 months in French oak:

12% new

25% one-year-old

19% two-year-old

38% three-year-old

6% four-year-old

BOTTLING

August 2nd, 2016

PRODUCTION

750 ml = 333 cases

1.5 L = 15 cases



2015 marks Freeman's fourth-ever Gloria Estate Pinot Noir, from the hillside vineyard adjacent to our winery. We named our estate vineyard for the hurricane that brought Ken and Akiko Freeman together in 1985. Ken was on a sailboat headed south, into the Atlantic, when Hurricane Gloria forced Ken and crew to beat their way landward and spend the night in port. That evening Ken went to a party, where the best-dressed, most stylish woman there was a beauty named Akiko. The rest, of course, is history in the making. The other important Gloria reference is to the woman of the same name who sold Ken and Akiko several acres adjacent to our property. Part of our vineyard lies on Gloria's old apple orchard.

In 2006 we planted our eight-acre estate vineyard to the heritage clones Swan, Calera, Martini, Pommard and Dijon 115. Today, Akiko Freeman works closely with our vineyard manager to make all the decisions at Gloria. It is not an easy site to farm, with its very steep hillsides and different exposures, from the top of the hill to the bottom.

Of all the vineyards where we saw reduced crops in 2015, Gloria Estate produced the lowest yield. The vines got off to a promising, early start over the course of a warm, fairly dry winter; but then May cooled down to well below normal levels, right in the middle of flowering. Set was uneven, and the tiny Pinot clusters at Gloria gave us only six tons of fruit from eight acres. On the positive side, the quality of the fruit was exceptional.

With subtle aromas driven as much by terroir as by fruit, the ripeness of the 2015 vintage comes through more on the palate than on the nose of the Gloria Estate Pinot Noir. Once tasted, you appreciate the full development of the wine, with its bright berry flavors, supple tannin and moderate acidity. As with every vintage of Gloria since the first in 2012, this is the real crowd pleaser in the Freeman lineup. Expect the '15 Gloria to be at its best from late 2017 through 2025.