



2015 YU-KI ESTATE PINOT NOIR

WINE NOTES

VINEYARD

100% Yu-ki Estate, Sonoma Coast

CLONES

Mariafeld (Clone 23)
Dijon 114
Dijon 667
Dijon 828
Wadenswil (Clone 2A)

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:
36% new
27% one-year-old
27% two-year-old
10% three-year-old

BOTTLING

August 14, 2016

PRODUCTION

750 ml = 240 cases
1.5 L = 18 cases



2015 marked our second vintage of Yu-ki Estate Pinot Noir. Ken and Akiko bought the land that would include the Yu-ki Estate in 2007, and planted their favorite heritage and Dijon Pinot Noir clones. The cool, wind-swept vineyard rises above the town of Occidental, 1,000 feet in elevation and only five miles from the Pacific Ocean. It is named for Akiko's nephew, Yu-ki, who lives in Japan. The word *Yu-ki* can also be translated from Japanese to mean “courage,” or “big tree”—appropriate descriptors for a site surrounded by majestic, old growth redwood trees, of which the Freemans have donated 22 pristine acres to the Bodega Land Trust.

The first five out of eight blocks planted at Yu-ki make up the 2015 Yu-ki Estate Pinot Noir. There are three Dijon clones—114, 667 and 828—as well as two Swiss Pinot Noir clones, Mariafeld (also called Clone 23), and Wadenswil, or Clone 2A. In the coming years we will see another block of 828 come online as well as two heritage clones, Mt. Eden and Calera.

2015 was an excellent year for quality but below average for quantity, at least for Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir. The location around Yu-ki will always be weather-challenged, given its short distance from the Pacific Ocean; but in addition 2015 marked the fourth year of a historic drought, and recorded the coldest May since the 1880's. This all combined to give us less than one ton per acre of Pinot Noir, and we consequently bottled fewer than 300 cases of Yu-ki in 2015. In spite of these small numbers, though, the wine offers an excellent preview of the future.

The 2015 Yu-ki Pinot Noir is as dense and dark as any of our 2015 Pinots. The true Sonoma Coast nose of earth and spice layered over ripeness and fruit is apparent right away. The palate is balanced with excellent acidity and just the right amount of tannin and oak to create a rich, enjoyable texture. Look for the 2015 Yu-ki to start showing at its best from mid-2017 through 2022.