



# 2016 Pinot Noir

## *Justice Vineyard*

**Production: 339 cases**

**94 Points – Vinous – June 2019**

**Crop Level: 1.9 tons/acre**

**Harvested:  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

**Bottled: February 2018**

**Alcohol: 14.2%**

**Suggested Pairings: Dishes  
with complex preparations  
like risotto or veal**

**Aging Recommendation:  
6 to 10 years**

### **Vineyard Notes**

Located on an east-facing ridge in the middle of the Eola-Amity Hills, Justice Vineyard benefits from the cooling influence of coastal winds blowing through the Van Duzer corridor. The vineyard was planted in 2001 on shallow basalt overlying old sedimentary soil at an elevation of 450'. Our block of 777 clone Pinot noir is located just off the ridge and has a SE exposure.

### **Production Notes**

The de-stemmed grapes were fermented in a 6 ton Burgundy oak fermenter with no SO<sub>2</sub>, allowing the fermentation to proceed naturally. After gentle pressing and settling, the wine aged in French oak barrels, 28% of which were new, for 16 months before bottling by gravity without fining.

### **Vintage Notes**

2016 was the third in a string of warm summers and early harvests. It produced the smallest crop of the three. The harvest began with a bit of heat and dehydration in the fruit. This immediately resolved with cooler temperatures and the rest of the harvest produced well balanced fruit with lovely flavors and ripe tannins. We finished picking at the end of September, producing a total of 10,200 cases. In general 2016 produced lush, early-drinking wines with lovely aromatics and accessible fruit, spice and floral notes. They can be aged and are quite approachable in their youth.

### **Tasting Notes**

The usual baking spice in Justice is fully on view in the 2016 Pinot noir Justice Vineyard. Nutmeg, allspice and cinnamon hurl themselves at you with hints of black raspberry, forest floor, fresh plum and dried cherry. The dark fruits mingled with soft spices are amazingly persistent leading to a “crescendo” effect on the palate that creates pleasure throughout its long finish. This Justice is remarkably enjoyable now and is sure to improve over 6 to 10 years.