

PETER PAUL

WINES

2018 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Gravenstein Highway

After the heat-spiked 2017 vintage, 2018 was like a calm stroll through the Muir Woods; Effortless with consistent, moderate weather for what turned out to be the longest harvest in years. In fact, I remember how few vintners and winemakers came to my taco truck party in late October because they were still picking fruit. The good news: both phenolic maturity and sugar-levels were in pristine balance at harvest. Thankfully, we wrapped up Pinot Noir and Chardonnay well before the rains of early October. The resulting wines have a lovely density of fruit and phenolics without tasting overripe, especially from Terra de Promissio and Bacigalupi vineyards. Speaking of... this is our third vintage with the TDP site, which has established itself as the magnificent backbone of our Pinot Noir program – forming the core of our flagship Mille Frères and dramatically upgrading the complexity of Gravenstein Highway.

About the Wine

Sourcing grapes from several fine sites, including the Frere vineyard in Russian River and the famed Terra de Promissio in the Petaluma Gap, this bottling was the culmination of painstaking barrel selection over many months during which we sought to achieve a balance between aromatic purity, medium-bodied complexity, and a refreshing bright style of Pinot Noir. Minimal racking during its 14-month maturation in 20% New French Oak; bottled unfined in December 2019.

Side note: you might notice the sleeker, leaner bottles for Gravenstein this year. We've moved to lighter, thinner glass to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the movement and transport of our finished wines.

Tasting Notes

The heart of this Pinot Noir remains in the Russian River, albeit on the cooler side of the appellation, which shows a gracefulness and pristine red fruits. The Terra de Promissio component shows up with its hallmark chiseled, savory features. Those aromas however... goodness, it's like "strawberries gone wild" at the time of this writing (1st half of 2020), along with crushed rose petals and cinnamon. There's a gentle freshness on the palate, with more earthiness than the nose suggests; the red fruits here being framed by sous bois, mineral, and an underlying fabric of powdery tannins. This vintage is quite similar to 2017, but with even more striking aromatics and brightness in its step.

Variety: 100% Pinot Noir

Appellation: Russian River ~80%, Petaluma Gap ~20%

Maturation: 100% French Oak, 20% new, 14 months

Bottled Date: December 2019

Production: 542 cases (12 x 750ml)

Retail Price: \$32/bottle