

PETER PAUL

WINES

2018 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Mille Freres

After the heat-spiked 2017 vintage, the following year was like a calm stroll through the Muir woods. 2018 was refreshingly consistent with moderate weather and cool nights through the longest, slowest harvest in a while. In fact, I remember how few vintners and winemakers came to my taco truck party in late October as they were still picking fruit! The good news: both phenolic maturity and sugar-levels were in tip-top 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 color without tasting overripe, especially from our Terre de Promissio vineyard. Speaking of... this is our third vintage with the TDP site, which has established itself as the undisputed backbone of our Pinot Noir program and forms the gorgeous core of Mille Frères.

About the Wine

Mille Freres is our flagship Pinot Noir, based on the magnificent expression of Terra de Promissio terroir in Petaluma, the same source of wine that has gone into a veritable who's who of Sonoma Coast producers. This vineyard grows compellingly profound, luxurious fruit, which provides the gravitas of our Gravenstein bottling, but truly shines as the core seduction of our magnetic Mille Freres. Harvested at night to preserve freshness and vibrancy, the grapes are carefully transported to open-top fermenters and gently punched down, followed by an undisturbed 14-month-long maturation in 50% new French Oak. Seeing no racking, no fining, and no filtration, this beauty was bottled "as-is" in Dec 2019.

Tasting Notes

Mille Freres commands attention the way luxury Pinot Noir should, with heavenly red and black fruits, knee-weakening florals, savory yumminess, and an underlying warming spice note, a bit like a glorious Christmas celebration. Richly textured, this wine plays like a symphony on the palate with pure flavors of red berry preserve, sweet fresh herbs, hints of mushroom & licorice, perfectly framed by mouth-coating tannins that remain pliant even in their persistence. Fans of the 2016 vintage character will be especially pleased. This is a chiseled, compelling, and (yes) age-worthy Pinot Noir.

Technical Data

Variety: 100% Pinot Noir
Appellation: Petaluma Gap / Sonoma Coast
Maturation: 100% French Oak, 50% new, 14 months
Bottled Date: December 2019
Production: 164 cases (12 x 750ml)