

# 2013 Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Confluence Vineyard – Hillside

Our Confluence Vineyard is located in the heart of the Anderson Valley, adjacent to the headwaters of the Navarro River. In addition to marking the coming together of two creeks, our Confluence Vineyard embodies two distinct terroirs: rich-soiled benchlands and a steep hillside section. This diversity has inspired two limited-production Pinot Noirs—Confluence Hillside and Confluence Lower Bench. Confluence's hillside vines struggle in exposed wash rock soils on slopes of up to 45°. As a result, they produce small berries leading to a big, well-textured wine with dark, concentrated fruit flavors and tightly wound tannins.

#### IN THE VINEYARD

An extremely dry winter was followed by just enough spring rain to carry us through to a successful harvest. With very few frost days, the fruit set was excellent throughout our estate vineyards. To ensure a perfectly sized, well-balanced crop we were very active in fruit dropping. The remaining clusters were compact, with the abundant small berries that are perfect for high-quality wine. We started harvest 10 days earlier than normal, during a period of ideal temperate weather that allowed us to pick at a leisurely pace, while ensuring optimal ripeness. The resulting wines are marked by a complexity only achieved in cooler years with coursing acidity, beautiful high-toned fruit and nuanced minerality.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE WINEMAKER

Planted primarily to Dijon clones, our Confluence Hillside Pinot Noir comes from the first grapes harvested from our estate vineyards in any given year. This wine has a silkiness and floral, strawberry streak that dances delicately on the palate leading to a lingering acidity reminiscent of a tart apple strudel.

#### VARIETAL CONTENT

100% Pinot Noir

## HARVEST INFORMATION

Appellation: Anderson Valley Harvest Date: September 3 – 18, 2013 Average Sugar at Harvest: 24.0° Brix 1 Vineyard Harvested

## **COOPERAGE**

100% French oak, 50% new, 50% 2nd Vintage Medium toast: Allier, Vosges and Tronçais Forests Barrel Aging: 16 Months

### TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol: 14.5% 0.54 g/100 ml titratable acidity pH: 3.77

Bottled: February 2015 Released: September 2016