



2017 Anderson Valley Pinot Noir *Confluence Vineyard – Lower Bench*

In addition to marking the coming together of two creeks, our Confluence Vineyard embodies two distinct terroirs: rich-soiled benchlands and a steep hillside. This diversity has inspired two limited-production Pinot Noirs – Confluence Lower Bench and Confluence Hillside. The Lower Bench vines are grown in Confluence’s fertile benchland soils, and ripen weeks later than our hillside grapes producing generous dark fruit flavors and earthy tannins.

In the Vineyard

The 2017 season began with plentiful rains that resulted in healthy vines and an excellent crop. After ideal temperate weather throughout the summer, a significant September heat spell ushered in a brisk start to harvest. A return to normal temperatures, combined with thoughtful irrigation, slowed the pace and allowed us to continue picking each site at optimal levels of ripeness. The grapes arrived at our winery in exceptional condition, resulting in complex wines that embody the rustic elegance of great Anderson Valley winemaking.

Comments from the Winemaker

Grown in the deep, fertile soils of Confluence Vineyard’s lower bench, this is a beautifully terroir-driven wine, with rich layers of strawberry pie, sweet leather, wildflowers and holiday baking spices. On the palate, firm acidity adds poise and purity to the alluring red berry and lilac flavors, with velvety tannins drawing the wine to a lingering finish.

Varietal Content

100% Pinot Noir

Harvest Information

Appellation: Anderson Valley

Harvest Dates: September 6 – 23

Average Sugar at Harvest: 25.0° Brix

Cooperage

100% French oak

Barrel Aging: 16 months

60% new, 20% neutral, 20% second vintage

Production and Technical Data

Alcohol: 14.5%

0.496 g/100 ml titratable acidity

15 days fermentation at 75°F

pH: 3.71

