



Wild Thyme Vineyard Pinot Noir
Fort Ross-Seaview
Sonoma Coast
2014

Vineyard Character

We planted the Wild Thyme Vineyard with clones Pommard and 943 in the year 2009. It sits along the ridge-line between our Three Sisters Vineyards and our Blue Slide Ridge Vineyard, on the edge of a sheer canyon that the old timers refer to as “Devil’s Canyon”. The vineyard is just above the fogbank that hugs these coastal cliffs, allowing for this Pinot Noir to ripen slowly, developing layers of complexity and flavor. Wild Thyme Vineyard is named for the wild thyme that grows abundantly at this location, and for the wild times we have had while drinking wine on this favorite family property since the 1860s.

Growing Year

The growing year in 2014 was the third dry year in a row and was full of unforeseen challenges provided by Mother Nature. You would think the ongoing drought, excessive heat from March thru June, and hail in early April would have brought down the quality of this vintage. Thankfully this was not the case! Even though the harvest was very early, the small berry sizes and healthy yields have produced very well balanced wines; they are not over-bearing in tannin or structure, and are a pleasure to drink.

Wine Statistics

The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 50% new French oak on its gross lees for 10 months. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 98

Tasting Notes

The 2014 Wild Thyme Vineyard Pinot Noir has exotic aromas of blood orange rind, Montmorency cherries, and tarragon. On the mouth the flavors are rich with spicy blackberry, rhubarb, notes of clove, black licorice, and chewy tannins.

Historical Acclaim

2014 Vintage

- 96 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 95 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green