



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

**Blue Slide Ridge Pinot Noir
Fort Ross - Seaview, Sonoma Coast
2014**

Vineyard Character

Blue Slide Ridge is named for its magnificent formations of blue rock. Directly below the vineyard a sheer cliff drops into the small winding “Marshall Creek”, showing off great cerulean shards jutting out from beneath the earth’s surface. In 1995 Lee Sr. and Carolyn Martinelli planted this six acre vineyard of Pinot Noir on a steep slope which was once prime grazing land for sheep, located on the second ridge inland from the Pacific coastline.

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 size and healthy yields have produced very well balanced wines; they are not over-bearing in tannin or structure, and are a pleasure to drink.

Production Notes

Each vineyard block goes through meticulous sample testing and is picked at optimum brix levels to ensure mature, ripe fruit flavors. After being picked, the fruit undergoes a five-day cold soak to maximize the early extraction of flavor and color. This is followed by a wild yeast fermentation that promotes greater character and depth when the wine matures. Sugar and malolactic fermentations are completed in barrel, and the wine is *sur lie* aged in 80% new French oak for 16 months. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and is clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 214

Tasting Notes

The 2014 Blue Slide Ridge Pinot Noir has aromas of blueberries and plums, with conifer and kirsch back notes. With a silky texture and stunning depth on the palate there are flavors of blue fruits, berries, and hints of caramel.

Historical Acclaim

2014 Vintage

- 96 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 93-95 points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2013 Vintage

- 94+ points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 94 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green