



**Blue Slide Ridge Pinot Noir**  
**Fort Ross - Seaview, Sonoma Coast**  
**2015**

### **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 2015 harvest was the earliest that we have had in a while, starting on August 12th. Even though the previous three years were all very early harvests, 2015 had them all beat. We had a very dry spring with cool weather during bloom (April-May) which caused a long fruit-set period that resulted in some shatter, creating a reduced crop size by 35-50% in some vineyards. The combination of lower yields and early spring bud break meant the ripening period started off early and progressed rapidly. Despite these challenging growing conditions and lower yields, the fruit quality for 2015 was exceptional.

### **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: 217

### **Tasting Notes**

Our 2015 Blue Slide Ridge Pinot Noir has rich and dark black fruit on the nose that gives way to a full mouth experience. Prominent flavors of dark cherry, blueberry and black raspberry with a hint of clove on the long finish.

### **Historical Acclaim**

#### 2015 Vintage

- 95+ points The Wine Advocate
- 94+ points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous

#### 2014 Vintage

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green