

PAUL HOBBS

2020 PINOT NOIR FRAENKLE CHESHIER VINEYARD RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, SONOMA COUNTY

VINEYARD

- Owner: Oliver Fraenkle
- Sourced from: block b
- Clonal selection: 777
- Rootstock: 101-14
- Plant date: 2001
- Soils: Goldridge fine sandy loam, Pajaro fine sandy loam
- Exposure: 0-3% slope, full exposure
- Trellis and pruning: vertical shoot positioned (vsp), bilateral cordon and cane
- Yield: 3.38 tons/acre

GROWING SEASON

A dry winter started the season with less than half the region's average rainfall leading to a mild spring and early season bud break. Summer began with relatively moderate temperatures resulting in exceptional phenolic development, allowing fruit to ripen and mature slowly on the vine. Consecutive heat spells coupled with a rare mid-August lightning storm accelerated the start of harvest two weeks earlier than average. All fruit was hand-harvested within seven weeks, and although challenging on many fronts, our highly skilled team persevered at every stage and excelled in their meticulous picking, sorting, and barrel selections. While some wines will not be produced as they did not meet our standards for quality, those that were are in very small quantities, ensuring the limited remaining bottlings showcase their full character with great energy, depth of flavor, and focus.

HARVEST

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- Harvest date: September 24

WINEMAKING

- Hand-sorted while still cold from the field; 12% whole cluster inclusion
- Fermented in small, open-top stainless steel tanks with indigenous yeasts
- 5 day cold soak, 14 day maceration
- Gentle punchdowns
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrel
- Aged 15 months in French oak barrels; 10% new
- Cooper: François Frères
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; January 2022

TASTING NOTES

Located in the area known as Sebastopol Hills, just west of the town of Sebastopol, this pinot noir displays a medium ruby color with energetic aromas of ripe Bing cherry, cranberry, and mountain strawberry. Satin tannins and juicy acidity complement flavors of pomegranate, damp earth, black tea, and baking spices, followed by a round, long finish.