

Elizabeth Spencer
RUTHERFORD 1872

PINOT NOIR
SONOMA COAST

VINTAGE 2023

IN THE VINEYARD

The fruit is sourced from the Hendricks Vineyard, nestled in the Petaluma Gap AVA, where we've proudly maintained a 20-year partnership, as well as from the Leveroni Vineyard in the heart of Sonoma Valley. The Petaluma Gap, known for its signature wind gap funneling cool coastal air inland, brings dramatic diurnal temperature shifts that slow ripening and enhance flavor development—perfect for expressive, balanced Pinot Noir. Meanwhile, Sonoma Valley's diverse terroir and temperate climate—marked by morning fog, coastal breezes, and well-drained soils—further contribute to fruit with vibrant acidity, layered complexity, and a true sense of place.

WINEMAKING

Harvested by hand on September 26, the Pinot Noir—Clone *777* and Pommard—was carefully hand-sorted and fermented in small open-top tanks, with a portion of whole clusters included to build aromatic lift and structure. Each lot was vinified separately before an extended period on skins to preserve varietal purity. The wine was then gently pressed and transferred to neutral French oak barrels, where it spent 20 months aging on the primary lees, allowing time to soften the site's naturally firm tannins. A slow malolactic fermentation and extended barrel aging were essential in this vintage, resulting in a more integrated profile. Bottled on July 1, 2025, we selected the most harmonious barrels for this cuvée, striking a balance between vibrant fruit expression and the polish gained through prolonged time in barrel.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose, lifted notes of ripe red currant, alpine strawberry, and dried rose unfold, leading to a palate woven with tart cherry, black tea, and a whisper of baking spice. Fine-grained tannins and refreshing acidity glide through a poised, lingering finish that speaks to its cool, maritime roots.

TECHNICAL NOTES

WINEMAKER:	Sarah Vandendriessche
APPELLATION:	Sonoma Coast
VARIETAL:	100% Pinot Noir
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
TOTAL ACIDITY:	5.8
PH:	3.47
AGING:	20 months in neutral French Oak

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