

Hirsch Bohan-Dillon Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir California 2023

Selected by: MTW Tasting Panel



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2023
GRAPE Pinot Noir
GEOGRAPHY Not Europe
COUNTRY USA
LARGER REGION California
SMALLER REGION Sonoma County
SUB REGION Sonoma Coast

Rationale

Pinot Noir is capable of some of the most exquisite examples of red wine imaginable. Unfortunately, in many spots globally, it is at the mercy of fickle weather and, as such, less than spectacular harvests making it one of the most challenging grape varieties to produce. California's moderate Mediterranean-like weather combined with cool coastal enclaves -- from Anderson Valley in the north to Santa Barbara in the south -- provides Pinot Noir growers more security in their efforts to cultivate this most difficult of grape varieties.

The 'true' Sonoma Coast lies in the far western reaches of the county, where the climate is ideal for Pinot Noir. The frigid waters of the Pacific generate breezes that transport fog inland during summer and result in cool, mild growing conditions. Well-architected, fruit-filled Pinot Noirs are typified by plum, blackberry, cherry, and wild berry flavors, well-framed by toasty notes, conifer, and minerality.

With over 37 years of farming and winemaking on the True Sonoma Coast, David Hirsch's accumulated wisdom pioneered this now-signature area of California's wine coastline. San Andreas Fault is Hirsch Vineyards' signature Pinot Noir and is crafted to represent the entirety of this multifaceted vineyard. In 2019, about 50% of the grapes in the Bohan-Dillon Pinot Noir came from Hirsch's 30-year-old vines; the balance from their 20-year-old vines. They make the Bohan-Dillon, a tribute to the great village wines of France (full of place and personality, with the same attention and integrity as their Cru wine) in the same way they make their more site-specific wines; the only difference is a shorter time in barrel.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Bright
CLARITY Clear
COLOR DEPTH Light
COLOR Ruby
RIM VARIATION None
Stained Tears: None

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry
ACID Med+
ALCOHOL Medium
TANNIN Low
TEXTURE Lean / Tart
FINISH Med+
COMPLEXITY Medium

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Strawberry • Red / Sour Cherry • Red Raspberry *Condition: Under Ripe / Tart, Fresh, Ripe*
BLACK FRUIT Black Cherry *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*
FLORAL Hibiscus • Rose *Condition: Fresh*
OTHER VEGETABLE Cola Nut
HERBAL Tea Leaf / Bergamot
OTHER SPICES Sarsaparilla
ORGANIC EARTH Forest Floor
INORGANIC EARTH Mineral / Rock
OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*
OAK INFLUENCE Blended Oak
PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES Partial / Whole Cluster