

Hirsch Vineyards Sonoma Coast San Andreas Fault Estate Pinot Noir 2018

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, and Master Sommelier Tim Gaiser



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2018

GRAPE Pinot Noir

GEOGRAPHY Not Europe

COUNTRY USA

LARGER REGION California

SMALLER REGION Sonoma County

SUB REGION Fort Ross-Seaview

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. The 2018 San Andreas Fault has fruit from 45 distinct farming blocks. This flagship wine from Hirsch represents the summation of the winery's complex vineyard.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Day Bright

CLARITY Clear

COLOR DEPTH Light

COLOR Ruby

RIM VARIATION Ruby
Stained Tears: None

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry

ACID Med+

ALCOHOL Medium

TANNIN Med+

TEXTURE Lean / Tart

FINISH Long

COMPLEXITY High

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Red Currant • Red Plum • Cranberry • Red / Sour Cherry • Strawberry *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*

BLACK FRUIT Black Raspberry • Black Cherry *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*

CITRUS FRUIT Tangerine *Condition: Fresh Part: Flesh, Peel / Zest*

FLORAL Hibiscus • Jasmine *Condition: Fresh*

GREEN VEGETABLE Dark Leafy Greens

OTHER VEGETABLE Mushrooms (Brown) • Fennel / Anise • Ginger / Root

HERBAL Pine / Sap • Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Sage • Chervil • Laurel / Bay Leaf

OTHER SPICES Ginger Powder • Licorice (Red) • Chinese Five Spice

ORGANIC EARTH Forest Floor • Turned Dirt / Potting Soil

INORGANIC EARTH Mineral / Rock

OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*

OAK INFLUENCE Blended Oak

OXIDATION/NUTTINESS Hazelnut • Almond / Marzipan

PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES Partial / Whole Cluster