

## Iron Horse Vineyards Green Valley of Russian River Valley Gold Ridge 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** Green Valley of Russian River Valley

### Rationale

Pinot Noir and the Russian River Valley are hand in glove synonymous across the five "neighborhoods" that form the great region: Sebastopol Hills, Green Valley, Laguna Ridge, Santa Rosa Plain, and the Middle Reach.

Located in western Sonoma County and named for the river that meanders through its territory, many Russian River Valley's vineyards are close to the Pacific Ocean. Given the cool temperatures and the favorable growing conditions that exist, Pinot Noir thrives. When you speak about the best examples of this grape in California, the conversation inevitably includes those from the Russian River Valley. Being close to the Pacific Ocean, temperatures are moderated by the marine influence, and the fog plays a critical role in both acid preservation and flavor, while the range of soil types results in varied flavor and structure profiles.

A pioneering estate winery founded in 1976, Iron Horse effectively pioneered the Green Valley AVA of the Russian River Valley. While perhaps most known for their celebrated sparkling wines, Pinot Noir is the estate's rising star. The Gold Ridge is three clones of Pinot Noir that were selected from four excellent sites where the unifying factor is the vineyards' highly-prized Gold Ridge soil, among the most coveted, especially for Pinot Noir.

### Sight

**BRIGHTNESS** Day Bright

**CLARITY** Clear

**COLOR DEPTH** Light

**COLOR** Ruby

**RIM VARIATION** Ruby  
*Stained Tears: None*

### Structure

**RESIDUAL SUGAR** Dry

**ACID** Med+

**ALCOHOL** Med+

**TANNIN** Med+

**TEXTURE** Lean / Tart

**FINISH** Long

**COMPLEXITY** Med+

### Aroma & Taste

**RED FRUIT** Cranberry • Red Raspberry • Red / Sour Cherry • Pomegranate • Strawberry  
*Condition: Under Ripe / Tart, Fresh, Ripe*

**BLACK FRUIT** Black Raspberry • Black Cherry • Blackberry *Condition: Fresh*

**CITRUS FRUIT** Mandarin • Orange *Condition: Fresh, Raisinated / Dried Part: Peel / Zest*

**FLORAL** Hibiscus • Lilac • Rose *Condition: Fresh*

**GREEN VEGETABLE** Dark Leafy Greens • Olive (Green) • Salad Greens

**OTHER VEGETABLE** Mushrooms (Brown) • Mushrooms (White) • Tomato Leaf • Ginger / Root • Rhubarb

**HERBAL** Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Basil • Sage • Verbena

**OTHER SPICES** Sarsaparilla • Licorice (Red) • Chinese Five Spice

**ORGANIC EARTH** Forest Floor • Turned Dirt / Potting Soil

**OAK AGING** Yes *Oak Intensity: Medium*

**OAK INFLUENCE** Baking Spice • Caramel / Toffee • Cacao / Chocolate • Toast

**OXIDATION/NUTTINESS** Hazelnut • Almond / Marzipan • Pecan / Brittle

**PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES** Partial / Whole Cluster