

2020 Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard Pinot Noir

WINEMAKER NOTES

On the nose, rich, dark berry notes are immediately apparent, and aromas of underbrush and coffee beans soon follow. The Rochioli Vineyard is perfectly situated along the bank of the Russian River, which has a moderating effect and allows for perfect ripening, creating unsurpassed layers of complexity. Aromas of cedar and wood spices further complex the nose, while in the mouth the texture is compelling, as usual, with concentrated and refined tannins that seem to cover every part of the palate. Berry fruit flavors abound and meld with complementary earth notes to create a striking balance in this wonderful vintage.

THE VINEYARD

The Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard is located six miles southwest of the town of Healdsburg, banking the Russian River. Fog-cooled evenings and moderately warm daytime temperatures make the Russian River Valley region ideal for growing Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes.

HARVEST 2020

The 2020 growing season started out very dry and bud break was delayed. Early spring rains recharged the soil profile, but periods of extreme cold caused many frost events throughout the Russian River Valley. Late spring yielded ample sunshine and moderate temperatures, and the plants responded very well with excellent canopy growth. The season ended up approximately 12% warmer than average and did not have any heat spikes until August. Harvest started in haste on August 12, ahead of an extreme heat wave. On the night of August 17, the weather changed and there was a rare dry lightning storm that sparked a fire on a hillside in remote west Sonoma County; later named the Walbridge Fire. In the Russian River Valley, it took a number of days for smoke to settle. Based on test result for smoke taint on the grapes, several coastal vineyards were not picked. For the vineyards which were picked, either before the fire or before the smoke settled, the result was concentrated wines with a darker, more brooding complexion. The polish of the tannin, coupled with excellent concentration, should allow for a wide drinking window.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 73% new, 27% 1 yr. Barrel Aged: 16 months pH: 3.49 TA: 0.58g/100mL Alc: 13.5% Released Fall 2022 \$100



7227 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448 www.williamsselyem.com Phone: (707)433-6425 Fax: (707)431-4862 Email: contact@williamsselyem.com