



# BELTED VINES

## 2022 PINOT NOIR

STEWART VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY



Stewart Ranch down in northern Napa Carneros has its toes in the estuary south of Napa, and stays cool and breezy. We had about 20" of winter rains in 2022, still considered a drought year, and the season started early, with a few random damaging frosts, then came many rollercoaster events with temperatures into the 100s. Pinot Noir is sensitive to high temperatures, so very careful farming was called for. We had budbreak on March 24, bloom on May 14, and veraison on July 16. A big heat wave made us decide to harvest by Aug. 23 as even more heat was projected and we did not want cooked flavors and sunburn. So we brought it in early in the morning, crushed to bins for transfer to an open top tank and a 4 day cold soak. We inoculated with RB2 yeast on Aug. 28 and pushed the temp to 80°F. It took off well, and it was pressed off on Sept. 5 at 0 Brix, and malolactic bacteria was added. It went to barrels Sept. 7 and finished ML by mid November. It rested on the lees until May when it was given a rack to get off the lees, then it was racked for bottling July 19. Power takes a back seat to delicacy with Pinot Noir, but in certain sites, such as the Stewart Ranch, both can be achieved.

### Pairs well with

Asparagus wrapped in bacon, charcuterie and lamb chops.

### Aromas

Layers of spice, cedar and forest floor, with plum and clove as it opens up.

### Tasting Notes

Smooth and generous, with layers of cherry, milk chocolate, and hazelnut on the mid-palate and a tapering but persistent finish.

### Bottled

Sterile bottled July 25, 2023

— *Allyson Doran, Winemaker, tasted 7/22/2023*

PRODUCTION:	230 cases
COMPOSITION:	100% Pinot Noir
VINEYARDS:	100% Stewart Ranch
APPELLATION:	Napa, Carneros
ELEVATION:	Sea level
COOPERAGE:	44% new François Frères French oak barrels for 10 months
ALCOHOL:	14.4% by volume
TA:	5.6 g/L
pH:	3.70

