

# SONOMA-LOEB



LEGENDARY WINES FROM SONOMA'S LEGACY VINEYARDS

## 2018 PINOT NOIR DUTTON RANCH, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY WINEMAKER PHILLIP CORALLO-TITUS



### WINE STATISTICS

Harvested: Sept 15 – Sept 29, 2018  
Brix at harvest: 24.8°  
TA: 0.66 g/100 ml  
pH: 3.66  
Alc: 14.5%

### THE WINE

Nestled in the cool, foggy hills above the Russian River Valley in Western Sonoma County, Dutton Ranch has earned a reputation as one of the appellation's preeminent Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards. Our Pinot Noir blocks are perfectly located on an east-facing slope with shallow soils and full sun exposure. Planted to the 667, 777 and 115 Pinot Noir clones, this impeccably farmed site is the perfect place for making world-class Pinot Noir. Grapes from the 2016 vintage were fermented using a combination of punch-downs and pump-overs, using yeast strains from Burgundy and Germany. The wine was aged for 11 months in French oak barrels.

### GROWING SEASON & HARVEST

The 2018 vintage delivered ideal growing conditions that were reminiscent of the exceptional 2012 and 2016 vintages. Perfectly timed spring rains saturated the soils, and were followed by moderate weather, with almost no days of heat above 100 F throughout the summer. Because the phenomenal growing conditions yielded a larger-than-average crop, we did as many as three to four thinning passes between June and August, aggressively dropping fruit to fine-tune the crop load. The temperate conditions continued late into the season, providing abundant hangtime, and ensuring ideal flavor development and the retention of excellent natural acidity. As a result, our 2018 wines offer beautiful concentration and weight, with lovely varietal purity.

### TASTING NOTES

This wine offers vibrant aromas of blackberry, black cherry, peppercorn and black tea, as well as hints of sweet French oak and forest floor. On the bright, energetic palate, the ripe berry flavors mingle with notes of cedar and black plum, with delicate fine-grained tannins carrying the wine to a long, lush finish.