2023 RIDGECREST
WIND RIDGE BLOCK ESTATE PINOT NOIR

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TECHNICAL DATA

AbV - 14.1% | **TA** - 6.1 g/L | **pH** - 3.57

AGING - 10 months 45% new, 55% 1-yr French oak barrels, 0% whole cluster

CLONES - 64% Dijon 667/777, 27% Pommard/Dijon 115, 9% Pommard/Dijon

PRODUCTION - 345 cases | **SRP** - $60

RELEASE - September 2025 | **ENJOY** - Now-2034 & beyond

93 VINOUS | 92 JAMES SUCKLING

Ridgecrest Vineyards is dry-farmed sustainably according to LIVE (Low Input Viticulture & Enology) standards.

Established - 1980 | Planted - 1982 - current | Elevation - 480 - 690ft | Acreage - 120 total | 41 planted

Of those planted acres, almost 25 are Pinot Noir, including Pommard (52%), Wadenswil (16%) and Dijon Clones 115 (10%), 667 (11%) & 777 (11%). The earliest plantings, own-rooted vines planted in 1982

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

All of us who tasted this wine immediately commented on the amount of beautiful ripe dark fruit there is on both the nose and the palate. You first notice the deep purple color in the glass, then when your nose hits the rim of the glass you will find it brimming with bright ripe plum, black cherry, huckleberry, and black currants. These fruits all dance around bursts of Asian Five Spice, tea leaf, cherry cola, dried raspberry and strawberry, cinnamon, and sandalwood. The palate offers the same medley of flavors found in the nose, with a silky and round mid-palate, exquisite length, and ending on a rose-accented savory spice-driven finish. – *Wynne*

VINTAGE NOTES

2023: Return to Normal: Average Becomes winning at dinner

We've had several unusual vintages recently, e.g., 2022 (hard freeze), 2021 (hot, hot hot) and 2020 (wildfire smoke). 2023 pleasantly showed us a recent, relative normalcy, albeit warm.

Only two harvests in the last ten have begun earlier, 2023 starting September 11, a full 30 days earlier than our average the first 15 vintages this century.

Vineyard vigor, growth and ripening were strong in this Summer, with only 2015 having more over-80F days and only 2019 having more rainfall. Cropload yields were slightly smaller by 15% than the all-varietal 2.52 ton-per-acre 5-year average, with disease pressure very low except for a couple late-held varieties and general quality very good to exceptional—and that we'd like to see become normal. - *Harry*

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