

2017 Bennett Valley  
*Cushing's Block Pinot noir*

The 2017 Cushing's Block Pinot Noir from Barbed Oak Vineyard in Bennett Valley once again shines. Our longer hang time at this early-ripening site led to a more balanced and complex wine.

As in the past, we received the Pommard clone of Pinot Noir in addition to Calera and Swan selections used in years' past. Pommard's elegance and grace creates a fitting counterpoint to the Calera and Swan clones' darkness and depth. The small, intense clusters grown in this vintage provide seductive density that the initiated have come to expect from Cushing's Block Pinot Noir. The delicate small berry Calera selection of Pinot Noir is always ahead in ripening by a few days. Because of this, we decided to pick the Calera first and bring in the Pommard and Swan three days later.

Lush aromas of ripe blackberry, kirsch, and plum sauce are intoxicating, while richness and freshness on the palate make this Bennett Valley vineyard irresistible. Although heavily influenced by concentrated dark fruit, like other wines in the Donelan portfolio there is a beautiful mix of exotic spice and spring flowers, to provide beautiful contrast and added complexity to this remarkable single-vineyard.

*Cellar Notes:*

**Percentage New Oak**

44%

**Composition**

100% Pinot noir

**Barrel Aging**

17 months

**Alcohol**

14.3%

**Bottling Date**

March 2019

**Production**

311 cases

**Clones**

71.3% Calera, 25.6% Swan Selection, 3.1% Pommard



*~20% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML*