

2014 Bennett Valley
Cushing's Block Pinot Noir

After a chance trip down a country road in Bennett Valley with one of our growers, we were introduced to an unbelievable site named Barbed Oak Vineyard. This vineyard gave us butterflies in our stomach at first glance—we had an immediate crush. With rolling, gravel hills planted to heritage clones of Pinot Noir and dotted with orange roses, the vineyard is stunning and produces a stunning wine.

Known to us as Cushing's Block, this is the third Pinot Noir to be released by Donelan Wines and an exceptional one at that. The tiny, toy-like clusters produce seductive flavors. 2014 Cushing's Block has a nose piled high with rich earthy mushrooms, bayleaf and chaparral, dark berry compote, cranberry sauce, and sweet loamy soil. The palate is fresh with more dark cherry and blackberry layers that find a grip in the mid-palate with nice structure and well integrated tannin. This is an elegant vintage.

Bennett Valley has become a key AVA for Donelan Wines. Its cool mornings and moderate temperatures allow for extended hang-time without producing over-ripeness. The 2014 Cushing's Block displays this perfectly, with the exciting contradiction between dark, concentrated fruit and bright acidity.

Barbed Oak Vineyard is the crème-de-la-crème when it comes to exceptional sites. We are immensely pleased to add this to our portfolio.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

25%

Barrel Aging

16 months

Bottling Date

January 28, 2016

Composition

100% Pinot noir

Alcohol

14.0%

Production

172 cases

~30% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

