

2015 Bennett Valley *Cushing's Block Pinot Noir*

In 2015, we were yet again in the throes of our crush on this beautiful vineyard, with its rolling hills and delicious fruit. The Cushing's Block Pinot Noir from Barbed Oak Vineyard has emerged as one of our most prized sites. After another year working with the vineyard, we are finding that, in addition to incredible quality, there is strong consistency between vintages, giving us great hope and excitement for the future of this wine.

The hallmark of the 2015 vintage was small fruit-set. At a site like Barbed Oak Vineyard, this meant even smaller clusters than the usual, toy-sized clusters the vines produce in a normal year. This resulted in the darkest and most concentrated Pinot Noir that Donelan Family Wines has ever made. The composition of the wine takes another step forward with the introduction of 20% Swan clone Pinot Noir from the site to add to the already complex and intoxicating Calera selection. Both of these clones are known for their "hens and chicks" clusters, carrying a mix of both normal and dime-sized berries that bring many of our favorite characters to the wine—a real winemaker's dream.

This wine is brooding and hedonistic, indicative of the warm 2015 vintage. Dark purple notes escape the glass, hand over fist; Asian plum sauce, Rhubarb, roasted sugar plums, and honey roasted beets. Then a savory wave of soy sauce and forest floor come into play. This wine is succulent and round. Perking up the palate are dashes of white pepper, winter green mint, and Mulberries, which grow on the edge of Cushing's Block and often treat us to shade and juicy berries on hot days in the vineyard. This is a generous and fully integrated Pinot Noir.

Cellar Notes:

Percentage New Oak

30%

Barrel Aging

18 months

Bottling Date

April 3rd, 2017

Composition

100% Pinot noir

Alcohol

14.4%

Production

222 cases

~20% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML

