



2012 Tondre Grapefield “Pommard” Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir

Bottled: December 4, 2013

Production: 79 cases

100% “Pommard” Pinot Noir Clone

13.9% Alcohol 66% new French Oak

Harvested September 25, 2012

Barrel Ageing sur lies 13 months

The “Pommard” selection of Pinot Noir has been around in California for quite some time. Dr. Harold Olmo of the University of California at Davis brought it over from Pommard, France in 1951 where it was registered into the California Grapevine Registration and Certification Program. From there it was propagated and eventually planted in vineyards throughout Oregon and California and was the dominant selection throughout both states until the early 1990’s when West Coast grapevines began to fail to Phylloxera and vineyards were subsequently replanted, many times with newly-available clones. Luckily it survived replanting in some vineyards or was planted in new vineyards by vineyardists who chose to value diversity. “Pommard” has been a dominant component of our previous bottlings of Tondre Grapefield Pinot Noir and it is our absolute favorite Pinot Noir to make and drink – hands down. We chose three special barrels of “Pommard” to showcase why we love this selection!

These grapes were harvested by hand and delivered to the winery where we destemmed all but 5% of the clusters and fermented the grapes in a stainless steel open top tank. There it fermented for 10 days and then macerated on the grape skins for one week longer. The wine was then drained and skins pressed; both freerun and press wines were blended and settled in a tank before pumping to French oak barrels. The wine aged for 13 months prior to racking, blending and bottling. It is unfinned and unfiltered.

This is an incredibly aromatic and flavorful wine: red cherries, pomegranate, cranberries are enhanced by smoky, spicy oak elements balanced by bright acidity. The tannins are silky smooth and the finish long and generous. A fine, delicate example of SLH Pinot Noir that will age well at least 5 more years.