VALRAVN

2017 sonoma county pinot noir

We've been making wine in Sonoma County for ten years now and along the way, established a dynamic network of friends and colleagues that include land owners, growers and winemakers. Through these connections, we've been fortunate to get exclusive access to fantastic vineyards.

In 2014, we launched Valravn Old-Vine Zinfandel from a friend's property whose grapes were not going into their own production. Not just any Zin — these were the old, bush-pruned vines that we had always envied when driving by the vineyard, literally less than a mile from Healdsburg. We jumped at the chance to work with this amazing fruit, and Valravn was born.

This year, Valravn spreads its wings as we continue to seek out similar opportunities, finding a parcel here and a row there in order to craft single-vineyard level Sonoma County wines, at prices that are far less than their counterparts. The Valravn wines are out of the gate approachable, delicious, and table ready.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

In 2017, we sourced from two different vineyards in the Sonoma County AVA, the first is a top-tier Russian River site planted to Clones 115 and 667. The second is a highly-coveted old-vine vineyard in the Sebastopol Hills area of the Sonoma Coast. Low yields, hand harvesting, organic dry farmed and Goldridge soils all lead to a Pinot Noir with amazing depth and purity.

In the cellar, hand sorted grapes undergo a 3-5 day cold soak followed by wild yeast primary fermentation in small open-top stainless steel tanks. Following primary, the wine was transferred to a blend of 30% new Cavin, François Freres, and Darnajou barrels for 12 months malolactic and aging.

TASTING NOTES

The foggy, cool vineyards in the Sonoma Coast produce gorgeous wines with beautiful high-toned red fruit flavors, while the Russian River component adds a richness and concentration in the form of black cherry, ripe strawberry, with hints of vanilla from top quality barrel aging. The wine is concentrated, but energetic with a linear mineral and acid streak providing backbone and freshness.