

2017 DIERBERG PINOT NOIR
DRUM CANYON VINEYARD, STA. RITA HILLS
\$52



ALCOHOL 13.1%	AGED 16 months	OAK 35% New French
HARVESTED Aug/Sept 2017	BOTTLED December 2018	CELLAR LIFE 8-16 years

VINTAGE

The first wet winter in years produced excellent early canopy growth. However, spring time was warm and dry; vine vigor remained in check as the fruit set. Overall the season was consistent with long term historical average temperatures right up until harvest. A massive heat wave dictated picking in early September to avoid imbalance in texture. The wines departed from 2015 and 2016 masculine, burly exuberance to produce something incredibly refined and elegant. While shy, a depth continues to unveil itself as they age

WINEMAKER NOTES

2017 was a straightforward vintage with moderate yields and a good pace to ripening. With a large heat spell right at the peak of harvest we elected to bring our Pinot Noir in ahead of, and into, the heat spell to avoid overripe flavors that can occur with too much warmth. As a result, our Pinot Noir alcohol was slightly below average and we leaned a bit more on stem inclusion to ensure we built a structure that was supple and extended with firm tannins. The wines were aged in about 35% new oak which can add a bit of mid-palate texture before being bottled the following December

TASTING NOTES

There have been years of Drum Canyon where, if this is possible, the aromas almost seem too intense. There was a period in mid-2000s in California where Pinot Noir producers were accused of adding Syrah to their Pinot to make them big and bold. I think it was just because they picked too ripe. However sometimes Drum Canyon is so powerful (like 2015) that it seems that way.

I wonder if 2017 is how it should be. It has the same flavors of Drum but in a more subtle, controlled manner that reflect some of the great Pinot Noirs of Europe. A bit of dark fruits with a spice, that is almost like fennel, and earthy notes drive these youthful aromatics. I love the structure that wraps itself around the very finesse driven weight and mid-palate. The wine has sneaky length and should last for some time.

