## 2018 Denison Cellars Kiff Vineyard Pinot Noir



## The Vintage

After a relatively dry winter, the 2018 growing season got off to a normal start with budbreak occurring on April $20^{\text {th }}$. The growing season was warm and dry, with over 21 days that reached at least $90^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. and included heat spikes during flowering in mid-June and late July. Very warm conditions persisted into August, but temperatures cooled significantly late in the month as the fruit was finishing veraison. Cooler than normal conditions persisted into September, slowing the ripening process to a perfect rate that enabled us to pick at optimal ripeness. The fruit for this wine was picked October $9^{\text {th }}$.

## The Wine

The 2018 Kiff Vineyard Pinot Noir is a blend of 667 and pommard clones. Each contributes unique characteristics; 667 provides mid-palate volume and red fruit flavors, and pommard adds cranberry, rhubarb, mineral notes, and structure. The resulting wine is garnet in color; It has rich mid-palate volume, velvety tannins, and a long, seamless finish with flavors of ripe raspberry, cranberry and underlying hints of mulled spices.

The fruit was harvested on October $9^{\text {th }}$ and spent five days in a cold-soak to extract color. Fermentation was completed in small, one-ton bins and took 52 days to complete; several days of extended maceration were included to extract more color and to allow the tannins to fully integrate. French oak barrels were used for aging, 20\% of which were new. The blend was created in November of 2019, after spending 12 months in barrel. Bottling was completed in May of 2020; 100 cases were produced.

The 2018 Denison Cellars Kiff Vineyard Pinot Noir is unfined and unfiltered. To prevent any incidence of cork taint, is bottled under a twist-off closure.

Harvest Date: October $9^{\text {th }}$

Final pH: 3.52

Alcohol: 14.4\%

Suggested Retail: \$45

Brix: $24.0^{\circ}$
Final TA: $5.10 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{L}$

Production: 100 cases

Winemaker: Tim Wilson
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