

# CLOS DE LA TECH



## 2014 PINOT NOIR **DOMAINE LOIS LOUISE** “COTE SUD”

### OVERVIEW

With caves tunneling deep into a vine-covered ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains and vineyards so steep they have to be farmed with a unique, specially-designed tractor moved by cables, Clos de la Tech is one of the most ambitious and innovative Pinot Noir producers in California. The winery was established in 1994 and continues to be operated by TJ Rodgers, founder and retired CEO of Cypress Semiconductor, and his wife, Valeta. Some of the highlights at Clos de la Tech include extreme growing conditions, high-altitude terrain, vine-by-vine farming, high-density planting (4,150 vines per acre), low yields, innovative equipment, gravity-flow winery, whole cluster fermentations with native yeast, and no filtration.

### VINEYARD

Clos de la Tech's five Pinot Noirs come from three estate vineyards: Domaine du Docteur Rodgers, Domaine Valeta and Domaine Lois Louise. Domaine Lois Louise is an extraordinarily steep, 240-acre property (35 acres currently planted) high atop the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. The “Cote Sud” block clings to the treacherous south-facing slope on the estate. Fully exposed and buffeted by strong maritime winds, it features a thin layer of topsoil over fractured rock and is planted to Dijon clones.

### WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between September 9th and September 21st. After an extended cold soak, the grapes underwent traditional vinification methods including foot crushing, whole cluster fermentation with native yeast, malolactic fermentation on lees and gravity transfer (no pumping). The wine was aged in Francois Frères barrels (Bertrange Forest) for 18 months and bottled unfiltered.

### TASTING NOTES

Cote Sud comes from an extremely steep, south-facing slope at our Lois Louise vineyard. The aspect of the site ensures that each vine is exposed to the sun throughout the day. Our 2014 is a large wine that projects cherry, raspberry, sage, violet, cigar tobacco, cedar, and cassis. It is tight, dense, structured and powerful. This profound Pinot will continue to blossom with extended cellaring.

### STATISTICS

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	Domaine Lois Louise “Cote Sud” Block
Barrel Aging	16 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels
pH	3.34
TA	0.72
Alcohol	14.5
Production	316 cases

