

CLOS DE LA TECH



2014 PINOT NOIR **DOMAINE LOIS LOUISE** “TWISTY RIDGE”

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 planted) in the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. It sits above the fog line and is buffeted by strong maritime winds. The “Twisty Ridge” block runs along the upper ridgeline at 1,700 feet. The site 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 a 10-day 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

This wine takes its name from the ribbon of vines that runs along the twisty ridge at our Lois Louise vineyard. The site's sparse soils and exposure to the cold, damp winds off the Pacific Ocean produce a wine that is distinctly masculine and long lived. In addition to the earth, anise, black currant and forest floor aromas that epitomize Twisty Ridge, this 2014 possesses a beguiling Asian spice quality in the nose and on the palate. As with all of our 2014s, this wine is built for the long run.

STATISTICS

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	Domaine Lois Louise “Twisty Ridge” Block
Barrel Aging	18 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels
pH	3.51
TA	0.65
Alcohol	14.5
Production	275 cases

