

# CLOS DE LA TECH



## 2014 PINOT NOIR **DOMAINE VALETA** "SUNNY SLOPE"

### 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. Planted in 1999, Domaine Valeta sits on a mountaintop in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 2,350 feet above the Silicon Valley. It is a challenging site that endures wind, cold and the occasional snow. Of the property's 30 acres, only 3.5 acres are planted to vines. The soils are a mix of fractured weathered sandstone and sandy loam and the clones include 113, 114, 115 and 777.

### WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between August 27th and September 9th. 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

Our Sunny Slope vineyard may share the same vine spacing, clones, rootstocks, farming and winemaking techniques as our other properties, but its wines are remarkably different. The hallmark of Sunny Slope is its ethereal, high-toned nose of violets, plums and cedar. This 2014 is dense, structured, tannic, mouthfilling and age worthy.

### STATISTICS

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	Domaine Valeta "Sunny Slope" Block
Barrel Aging	18 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels
pH	3.48
TA	0.68
Alcohol	14.5
Production	191 cases

