



CLOS DE LA TECH

Santa Cruz Mountains, California

2015 PINOT NOIR **DOMAINE DU DOCTEUR RODGERS**

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 du Docteur Rodgers is a one-acre, rolling hilltop vineyard in the town of Woodside, along the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It is a relatively cool, dry, protected site that consistently produces dramatically rich and concentrated Pinot Noirs.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between August 21st and September 4th. 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 14 months and bottled unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

We call Domaine du Docteur Rodgers (DDR) our "rich, luscious Pinot Noir with a unique bouquet." The following tasting note is from the first sommelier to hold both the Master of Wine and Master Sommelier titles, Ronn Wiegand: "An exceptional vintage of this wine (*****)— It is rich, full bodied, well balanced, and complex in flavor (cherry, toast, mint red currant, plum, red licorice, spicy oak), with a very long persistent finish." It is likely to be at its best between 2021 and 2026, or cellar properly for 10 years or more.

STATISTICS

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	Domaine du Docteur block
Barrel Aging	14 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels (80% new)
pH	3.56
TA	0.61
Alcohol	13.5
Production	70 cases