



# CLOS DE LA TECH

*Santa Cruz Mountains, California*

## 2015 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 it planted to Dijon clones.

### WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 Cote Sud our “Pinot Noir with a ‘blow away’ bouquet.” Ronn Wiegand: “A Pinot Noir with excellent depth and flavor (\*\*\*\*+). It is very supple, full bodied, and a richly flavored wine, tasting of cherry, plum, cedar, black tea, red licorice, and spicy oak. Very long, mildly tannic finish. Quite delicious now.” Cellar properly for 10 years or more.

### STATISTICS

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	Domaine Lois Louise “Cote Sud” block
Barrel Aging	14 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels (80% new)
pH	3.57
TA	0.63
Alcohol	13.6
Production	70 cases