



# CLOS DE LA TECH

*Santa Cruz Mountains, California*

## 2016 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 September 18<sup>th</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. After a 5 to 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 17 months and bottled unfiltered.

### TASTING NOTES

**We call Cote Sud our “Pinot Noir with a ‘blow away’ bouquet.”** Ronn Wiegand: *“Outstanding quality (\*\*\*\*). The bouquet is intense and refined, with cherry, blueberry, black tea, toasty oak, cedar, vanilla aromas. The palate is fleshy, full bodied, and somewhat tannic, yet nicely balanced, very long on the palate, and very persistent on the finish. First rate Pinot.”*

### STATISTICS

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	Domaine Lois Louise “Cote Sud” block
Barrel Aging	17 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels (80% new)
pH	3.63
TA	0.66g/100ml
Alcohol	14.2
Production	235 cases
SRP	\$95