



CLOS DE LA TECH

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

2018 Pinot Noir Restaurant Label Santa Cruz Mountains Estates

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 (1 acre, hand-farmed site in Woodside), Domaine Valeta (3.5 acres, 2,350 feet above sea level in the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA) and Domaine Lois Louise (an extraordinarily steep, ocean-exposed, 240-acre property in the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA). The fruit for the **"Santa Cruz Mountains Estates"** comes primarily from steep, south-facing hillsides. Low yields (less than two tons per acre) and coastal weather conditions conspired to create a wine with incredible depth and power.

WINE MAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between September 8th and September 27th, 2018. After a 5-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 François Frères barrels (Bertrange Forest) for 19 months and bottled unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

Santa Cruz Mountains Estates. Ronn Wiegand: "A Delicious Pinot Noir (****). Nose: very intense and very complex (black cherry, black currant, mint, spicy oak, tobacco); a wine with amazing richness for the type; very distinctive. Palate: exactly as the nose predicts – concentrated, full bodied, and very complex in flavor (herbal-fruity-toasty: blackberry, spearmint, tobacco, vanilla, spicy oak), with good balance, and long full finish. Still has some tannin which will become silky after 2025. Summary: Outstanding. A blockbuster SCME!"

STATISTICS

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyard: Santa Cruz Mountains Estates

Barrel Aging: 18 months in François Frères French oak barrels (81% new)

pH: 3.63

TA: 0.60g

Alcohol: 14.0

Production: Allocated cases