



## CLOS DE LA TECH

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

### 2018 Domaine Lois Louise Twisty Ridge

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#### 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. It sits above the fog line and is buffeted by strong maritime winds. The **"Twisty Ridge"** block runs along the upper ridge line at 1,700 feet. The site features a thin layer of topsoil over fractured rock, and it is planted to Dijon clones.

#### WINE MAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between September 22nd and October 18th, 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 18 months and bottled unfiltered.

#### TASTING NOTES

The thin (18-inch) clay-loam topsoil and cold windy weather of Twisty Ridge produce our "big red wine." Ronn Wiegand (\*\*\*\*+) "Nose: It is beginning to develop the nose, with a wide range of enticing, complex aromas (vanilla, black tea, mint, black cherry, red currant, spicy oak). Palate: Fleshy and medium rich, with a long flavor development on the palate, good balance, and a long, powerful finish. Summary: Gives a glimpse of its full promise – likely to be best after 2026. Excellent."

#### STATISTICS

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyard: Domaine Lois Louise Twisty Ridge block

Barrel Aging: 18 months in François Frères French oak barrels (82% new)

pH: 3.62

TA: 0.59g

Alcohol: 14.2

Production: 283 cases