

McINTYRE

2015 Estate Pinot Noir

McIntyre Estate Vineyard
Santa Lucia Highlands

Overview

Steve McIntyre is one of the most knowledgeable viticulturists in California. As owner/operator of Monterey Pacific, he and his team farm 12,000 acres in Monterey County and have planted nearly one quarter of the vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. McIntyre's proprietary *Preemptive Farming and Winemaking Practices*, developed over decades of observation and experimentation, sensibly addresses issues before they happen. By minimizing human intervention, McIntyre's vineyards and wines remain as natural as possible. The 80-acre McIntyre Estate Vineyard lies in the "sweet spot" of this rolling, benchland region. It produces incredibly intense and complex Pinot Noirs and well-structured, concentrated Chardonnays. It was among the first properties in the Santa Lucia Highlands to be SIP (Sustainability In Practice) Certified.

Vineyard

This wine is an amalgamation of the best blocks, best lots and best barrels from our 80-acre estate. The core comes from our "Old Vine" block. At 42 years old, this is the oldest planting of Pinot Noir in the SLH AVA. It is own rooted - a rarity in Californian - and trained on a Lyre trellis system. The remainder is a mix of Swan and Dijon clone 777 trellised on a VSP. The crop was thinned to a maximum of three tons per acre or 1.5 lbs. of fruit per foot of cordon. Row orientation is primarily north/south, which provides even sun exposure throughout the day.

Winemaking

At McIntyre our winemaking techniques are minimalistic. Our philosophy of "thoughtful but limited intervention" guarantees that the character and complexity of our fruit is highlighted in all of our wines. The grapes for this Pinot were harvested and hand-sorted in the early morning hours. Primary and malolactic fermentations were managed naturally using the wild, indigenous yeast strains that thrive in our vineyards.

Steve's Tasting Notes

2015 was one of those years where everything went smoothly in the vineyard and winery. The vines were balanced, the yields were low, the fruit was ripe and concentrated and the winemaking process was effortless. The resulting Pinot Noir is deep, rich and graceful. It is emblematic of our estate Pinots. The aromatics range from strawberries, cherries and blackberries to earth, spice and "sous bois." The palate is lush, smooth and pure.

Vital Statistics

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	McIntyre Estate Vineyard
AVA	Santa Lucia Highlands
Total Acidity	0.59 grams/100ml
PH	3.7
Alcohol	14.1%
Cases Produced	368
SRP	\$45.00

