



2017 Pinot Noir

Santa Lucia Highlands

WINEENTHUSIAST

Wine Spectator

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Editors' Choice

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Sept 24, 2020

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 or farmed nearly one quarter of the vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. The 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

Our 2017 SLH Pinot Noir owes much of its success to superior terroir and diligent, sustainable farming. It combines the Swan clone from the Escolle Road Vineyard and two clones from our McIntyre Estate Vineyard: 115 and ‘Old Vine.’ The ‘Old Vine’ block was planted more than four decades ago, making it the oldest plantings of Pinot Noir in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. It is own rooted – a rarity in California. 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 in both vineyards, which provides even sun exposure from morning to afternoon.

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

Every year we have a fresh opportunity to explore the terroir of the Santa Lucia Highlands. In 2017, favorable weather conditions allowed us to produce wines of extraordinary depth and concentration. Our SLH Pinot Noir is deep, dark and powerful with notes of cola, loganberries, plums and spice. The palate is full, lush and saturated with flavor. Long story short, this is textbook Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir.

Vital Statistics

Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyard	McIntyre Estate and Escolle Road Vineyards
AVA	Santa Lucia Highlands
Total Acidity	0.59 grams/100ml
PH	3.66
Alcohol	14.6
Cases Produced	1078
SRP	\$38

