

# 2021 Precious Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir

#### WINEMAKER NOTES

Red and black fruit aromas jump from the glass and are leavened with a dried herb character. Typical of this mountain top vineyard, the aromatics have a wild element to them and showcase the savory side of pinot noir. Hidden beneath the extract and mountain top tannin structure, the dark cherry notes and citrus flavors meld with savory herbs and minerals. A truly unique wine from a magical site on the Sonoma Coast.

## THE VINEYARD

Precious Mountain, located in the Sonoma Coast appellation, sits atop the second mountain ridge in from the Pacific Coast, near Fort Ross. This is a very small vineyard planted on steep slopes at an elevation of 1,750 feet. At this elevation coastal breezes, not fog, are responsible for Precious Mountain's cool evenings and moderate daytime temperatures. The vineyard is dry farmed which produces intense flavors.

#### HARVEST 2021

The 2021 growing season experienced only about 14 inches of rain, challenging the plants from the outset of the year. Late winter and early spring were cold and dry, bringing some uneven growth and stress to the plants. The canopies were a little smaller than average going into the flowering, however the weather was ideal and mild. Flowering determines quality and quantity, so it is the most important time. The 2021 season yielded an average to slightly below average crop size with outstanding quality. Largely, the growing season saw mild temperatures but with several scattered heat events. 2021 thankfully saw the return of the fog, which saved the vintage by keeping the nighttime temperatures cool, refreshing the plants, and keeping them hydrated under severe conditions. Due to the changing climate, fog intrusion has been minimal the last few vintages. The 2021 season finished up around the historical average for temperatures. Despite the inauspicious start to the year, the wines showcase terrific verve, character, and site specificity.

## **TECHNICAL NOTES**

Barrel Description: 70% new, 30% 1 yr. Barrel Aged: 16 months pH: 3.57 TA: 0.57g/100mL Alc: 14.2% Released Fall 2023 \$125

