

BlueFarm

2018 Pinot Noir, 1861 Vineyard, Sonoma Valley

Case Production: 48 / **SRP:** \$95.00

This vineyard is named both for its street address and coincidentally for the year in which Agoston Haraszthy was appointed by California's governor to "promote the improvement and growth of the grapevine" in the state.

The 1861 vineyard is planted on a plateau in the hills, a thousand feet above the Sonoma Plaza. Less than half an acre, the small site divides itself naturally into two blocks, one rockier than the other. The site is planted to the Pommard clone on 101-14 rootstock with a narrow spacing of 4' x 5'. Marine influence from both the Pacific Ocean and San Pablo Bay, combined with foggy mornings, allow the delicate pinot noir grapes to thrive in this rugged hillside setting.

Closest Town: Downtown Sonoma

AVA: Sonoma Valley

Varietal: Pinot Noir

Planted: 2008

Clone(s): Pommard

Rootstock: 101-14

Soil Type: Rocky loam

Aspect: Southern

Row Orientation: South/North

The Vintage

2018 was one of our cooler vintages in the last decade, with extended ripening and slow flavor development. Comparing temperatures, 2018 never climbed over 95 degrees and reached the low 90's only 5 times. In 2017, we saw 10 days of temperatures above 95 degrees, and, to put that into greater context, we saw heat spikes like that only 19 times throughout the entire 1990s. When we talk about vintage, rainfall and temperature are the drivers that define the journey of flavor development and expression. As a grower, I try to adjust those variations by using tools such as canopy management, irrigation, and thinning. 2018 was an easy year, but on the heels of 2017, we had to be patient. Our harvest began 2 weeks later than 2017, starting with the Chardonnay from the Laceroni Vineyard and the Pinot Noir from our 1861 Vineyard. The Anne Katherina and King Ridge vineyards came in at the end of September. The wines showcase the moderate growing season with deep fruit flavors, layers and a delicious suppleness. I am in love with the 2018s. They come close to the perfect wine; sophisticated and nuanced. – Anne Moller-Racke

Vintage: 2018

Harvest Date: September 11

Harvest Brix: 26.5

Harvest pH: 3.7

Harvest TA: 6.8

Days in Tank: 13 days

Type of Tank: Open top stainless steel

Barrel Program: 100% New French Oak: Atelier, Cadus

Bottling Date: March 2020

Bottling % Alcohol: 14.5

Case Production: 48

SRP: \$95

Blue Farm

Founded on Anne Moller-Racke's 30-plus years of winegrowing in Sonoma, Blue Farm was conceptualized in 2001 during her planting of Anne Katherina, Blue Farm's first estate vineyard. Blue Farm believes that an intimate understanding and connection to our vineyards is core to making site-specific Chardonnay and Pinot Noir of the highest quality.

www.bluefarmwines.com

