



## 2016 'Dijon Clones' Sonoma County Pinot Noir

One of the factors improving the overall quality of Pinot Noir in California is the planting of the so-called 'Dijon Clones' of Pinot Noir. A clone is a genetically distinct sub-type of a grape variety created by taking cuttings from an original mother vine with desirable characteristics and propagating new, identical vines. The Dijon Clones originated from vines in Burgundy, France and were brought to the United States by a group of winemakers in the 1960's and 70's and are now one of the premier clones of Pinot Noir in the U.S. We are fortunate that our friends at Robert Sinskey winery were able to offer to us some amazing '777' Dijon Clone fruit from their Ramal Road Vineyard which is located at the southernmost end of the town of Sonoma.

As this vintage is one of our lighter Pinots this is perfect to drink tonight. This wine is enticingly fragrant with an intoxicating nose of red cranberry, rhubarb, vanilla bean and orange rind. It offers up forward flavors of tangy cherry fruit, pomegranate, and orange peel. Absolutely captivating and elegant!

After hand sorting, the clusters were de-stemmed into a small open-top fermenter. After a two day cold soak, the must was inoculated with Assmanhausen yeast. The cap was punched-down twice daily, by hand. After a gentle pressing, the wine was inoculated for malo-lactic fermentation and barreled down to traditional burgundian barrels. The barrels used were 20% new French oak and 80% two and three year old French barrels. The wine was aged in barrel for 9 months, and then bottled without fining or filtration. **Only 250 cases produced**

### **90 Pts Wine Enthusiast**

Vintage	2016
Wine Type	Red
Varietal	100% Pinot Noir
Appellation	Sonoma County
Alcohol	13.6%
Cases	250
Barrel Aging	9 months in 20% new French Oak, 80% 2 & 3 year old barrels

### **August Briggs Winery**

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