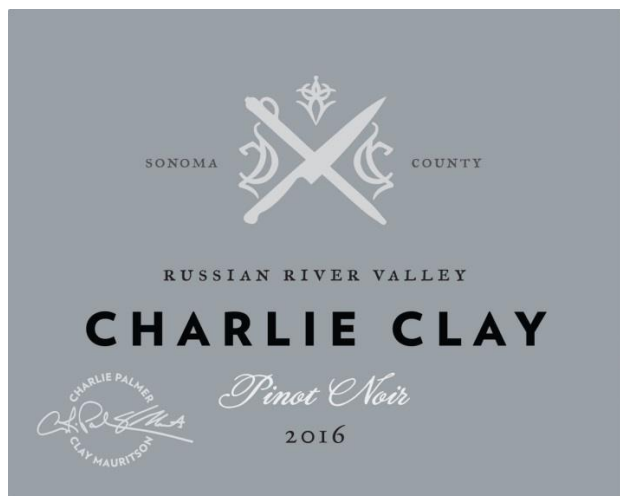




MAURITSON

Since 1868



2016 Charlie Clay Pinot Noir *Russian River Valley*

Production:	350 cases
Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Composition:	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyards:	70% Calegari 15% Dutton Campbell 15% Palmer Estate
Alcohol:	14.28 % by volume

Winemakers' Perspective

The growing season for 2016 was absent of extreme weather. We received average rainfall which was a relief after the last few years of severe drought. In May, the slightly warmer temperatures resulted in great fruit set. This vintage is characterized by a very cool August and a relatively cool September. For a finicky grape such as Pinot Noir, this extended exposure to cool weather resulted in deeply colored skins and lots of complex flavors.

The 2016 Charlie Clay Pinot Noir is a blend of three distinct vineyards. We were able to tease out the subtleties of each vineyard by fermenting in three unique vessels. This allowed us to incorporate whole cluster, native fermentations, and use a wide range of cap management styles. As a result, when we blended our 2016 Charlie Clay Pinot Noir, we blended barrel by barrel. The intricacies of our early work are exemplified in this delicious, nuanced and classic Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

This vintage has a deep garnet color. In the glass, there are intense aromas of late summer black raspberry, cola-berry and perfumed, spring lilac. On the palate, the entry is full and explodes with flavors of roasted coffee, dried tea leaf, and lingering Santa Rosa plum. Still in its youth, this wine is just starting to reveal layers of complexity and energy. This wine will drink best over the next 8-12 years and age gracefully for many more after that.

Cheers,

Clay & Emma

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