



CLOS DE LA TECH

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

2017 Domaine Lois Louise Cote Sud

OVERVIEW

With caves tunneling deep into a vine-covered ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains and vineyards so steep they have to be farmed with a unique, specially-designed tractor moved by cables, Clos de la Tech is one of the most ambitious and innovative Pinot Noir producers in California. The winery was established in 1994 and continues to be operated by TJ Rodgers, founder and retired CEO of Cypress Semiconductor, and his wife, Valeta. Some of the highlights at Clos de la Tech include extreme growing conditions, high-altitude terrain, vine-by-vine farming, high-density planting (4,150 vines per acre), low yields, innovative equipment, gravity-flow winery, whole cluster fermentations with native yeast, and no filtration.

VINEYARD

Clos de la Tech's five Pinot Noirs come from three estate vineyards: Domaine du Docteur Rodgers, Domaine Valeta, and Domaine Lois Louise. Domaine Lois Louise is an extraordinarily steep 240-acre property (35 acres currently planted) high atop the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. The "Cote Sud" block clings to the treacherous south-facing slope on the estate. Fully exposed and buffeted by strong maritime winds, it features a thin layer of topsoil over fractured rock and it planted to Dijon clones.

WINE MAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between September 26th and October 5th, 2017. After a 5 to 10 day cold soak, the grapes underwent traditional vinification methods including foot crushing, whole cluster fermentation with native yeast, malolactic fermentation on lees and gravity transfer (no pumping). The wine was aged in Francois Frères barrels (Bertrange Forest) for 19 months and bottled unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

We call Cote Sud our "Pinot Noir with a 'blow away' bouquet." Ronn Wiegand: "An excellent Pinot Noir with great aging potential (***)+. Very ripe (cherry, cassis, plum jam, red licorice), with supporting toasty, spicy character; youthful, but open and accessible. The palate is fleshy and full bodied, with evident richness. It is quite long on the palate, well balanced, and very persistent in the finish, with moderate tannin. Surprisingly drinkable this early for Cote Sud. Likely to be at its best between 2024 and 2028."

STATISTICS

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyard: Domaine Lois Louise Cote Sud block

Barrel Aging: 19 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels (80% new)

pH: 3.61

TA: 0.62g

Alcohol: 13.5

Production: 897 cases