



CLOS DE LA TECH

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

2017 Domaine du Docteur Rodgers

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 du Docteur Rodgers is a one-acre, rolling hilltop vineyard in the town of Woodside, along the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It is a relatively cool, dry, protected site that consistently produces dramatically rich and concentrated Pinot Noirs.

WINE MAKING

The fruit was hand-harvested between September 3rd and October 4th, 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 Domaine du Docteur Rodgers (DDR) our "rich, luscious Pinot Noir with a unique bouquet." The following tasting note is from the first sommelier to hold both the Master of Wine and Master Sommelier titles, Ronn Wiegand: "Excellent Quality (****+) – The aroma is intense and relatively open, displaying complex, distinctive character (cassis, cherry, bay leaf, mint, cedar, oak). The palate is youthful and vibrant; it is full-bodied, moderately intense, and crisp, with a very long flavor evolution, and a brisk, long, mildly tannic finish." Decant an hour before drinking to enjoy to its fullest potential. Likely to be at optimal drinkability between 2024 and 2028.

STATISTICS

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyard: Domaine du Docteur Rodgers block

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

pH: 3.61

TA: 0.66g

Alcohol: 13.6

Production: 130 cases