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**BENEVOLENT DICTATOR**  
**SONOMA COAST PINOT NOIR**  
2015

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*What do you call a wine with a powerful, authoritative presence that's also irresistibly likeable and food-friendly—bold, yet balanced, firm, yet kind? You call it Benevolent Dictator, of course.*

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**2015 VINTAGE**

2015 was an outstanding year for quality throughout the Russian River Valley. A mild winter and warm spring got the vines off to an early start, with budbreak arriving in March. An unseasonably cool May caused a small fruit set. Yields were lower than normal due to both fewer and smaller clusters. The smaller clusters gave us more concentrated flavors and they also caused the grapes to ripen faster. We were able to pick perfectly ripe and balanced fruit earlier than normal, before the autumn rains began.

**TASTING NOTES**

Our 2015 vintage of the Benevolent Dictator is a classic expression of Russian River Pinot Noir. With each swirl, rich aromas of black cherry, red plum and rhubarb intermingle with the scent of cola and baking spices. The initial fruit-focused aromatics evolve into a complex medley of pomegranate, saffras, red apple skin, and cardamom, followed by a touch of earthy forest floor. At first sip, the concentration of the 2015 vintage shines through. Intense ripe fruit and baking spices dominate the palate, and then unfold into a harmonious fusion of brandied cherries, root beer, cranberry and a touch of vanilla. Supple tannins dance with the baked strawberry, rhubarb and clove on the lingering velvet-like finish. This bold and thought-provoking wine is approachable now, but give it a little time and your patience will be rewarded.



**Vintage:** 2015

**Appellation:** 100% Russian River Valley

**Varietal:** 100% Pinot Noir, Clones 667 and 777

**Cooperage:** 100% French Oak, 40% new, 60% 2-year oak

**Production:** 580 cases

Handcrafted Small Production Wines, Passionately Created in the Heart of the Napa Valley.

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