



BENEVOLENT DICTATOR
RUSSIAN RIVER PINOT NOIR
2016

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.



2016 VINTAGE

After five years of drought we saw some relief in the form of substantial, nourishing rains during the winter months. A warm spring prompted an early budbreak, with veraison starting early in most northern California vineyards. It seemed like 2016 would be another quick growing season until the moderate, steady heat of summer stretched the ripening season further than expected. We let the fruit hang several weeks longer than we expected to achieve ideal ripeness. By the time the October rains fell, our Pinot Noir was already happily fermenting in the winery. We are pleased to report that the quality of the 2016 vintage is simply superb.

TASTING NOTES

Bursting with youthful exuberance, the 2016 Benevolent Dictator is packed with bright aromas of fresh picked summer berries, rose petals and ripe black cherries. With another swirl, secondary aromas of cola, cedar and spice lift out of the glass. Typical of Pinot Noir from the Russian River Valley, effusive notes of ripe summer fruit, cherry cola, black tea and savory herbs playfully roll across the palate. Soft, lush fruit plays well with earthy, toasty notes atop a solid foundation of integrated tannins. Deep and complex with a touch of creaminess near the finish leaves you longing for another sip.

Vintage: 2016

Appellation: 100% Russian River

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir, 50% clone 667 and 50% clone 777

Alcohol: 14.5%

Cooperage: 100% French oak, 50% new, 50% 2-year French oak

Production: 570 cases