

HIRSCH VINEYARDS

2023 *East Ridge Estate Pinot Noir*

The East Ridge is one of the oldest and most unique sections of the Hirsch Vineyard. David Hirsch began planning the East Ridge in 1990 (read the complete history [here](#)). Beginning at an elevation of 1,600 feet, it slopes steeply into our eastern canyon. Fog gathers in the canyon at night, and during the day, cool ocean breezes circulate amongst the vines. However it is often the first place the fog burns off in the morning, making it a relatively warmer site.

Around eighty percent of the old vines on the East Ridge are stricken with phylloxera, resulting in some of the lowest yields at Hirsch, and requiring intensive and meticulous vine-by-vine farming. The low yields contribute to a notable concentration of fruit in the *East Ridge* Pinot Noir. The phylloxera also devigorates the vines, inhibiting photosynthesis and slowing sugar accumulation. This combination of low vigor and low yields results in a wine of dark-fruited concentration tempered by elegance and naturally low alcohol. It is a masculine and structured expression of the Hirsch Vineyard, with fantastic concentration and energy.

Years of intense biodynamic soil care have helped restore vigor and energy to the old vines. In addition, the newer plantings on the East Ridge are now coming up on twenty years of age, and they are able to play a larger role in the blend. The result is wines of greater ripeness than in prior years, complimented by the dark fruit and notable tannins that characterize the *East Ridge* Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES: The 2023 *East Ridge* is a crystalline expression of one of our most unique sites, seen through the lens of a cool, Old World-style vintage. The hallmark tannins of East Ridge are long and silky in this vintage, enveloped by mid-weight dark fruit and uplifted by notes of alpine strawberries, anise and dried herbs.

SERVICE NOTES: The 2023 *East Ridge* is expressive and approachable now, but will gain weight and polish with a few years of age. This is a regal and structured Pinot Noir that will go the distance in the cellar.

Vine age:	Planted 1990-91	34%
	Planted 2003	33%
	Planted 2011-19	33%
Clones:	Pommard-Wädenswil	54%
	Swan	44%
	Calera	2%
Production:	465 cases	
Bottling date:	March 2025	
Formats:	750ml, 1.5L	
New oak:	37%	
Alcohol:	12.7%	

