

HIRSCH VINEYARDS

2023 *West Ridge* Estate Pinot Noir

"The wines of the West Ridge have a gentle, supple personality, and are, shall we say, *romantic*."
– David Hirsch

The West Ridge is a north-south ridgeline, with the vineyards planted on the ridgetops. Predominantly comprised of very heavy, black clay, the soils are highly compacted, and act more like bedrock than typical clay. This inhospitable environment stresses the vines and inhibits vigor. It is one of our most challenging vineyard sites, yet produces wines that are ethereal, fragile and hauntingly aromatic.

The foundation of the *West Ridge* Pinot Noir is Block 7, planted in 1992 with cuttings David Hirsch took from the Mount Eden Vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains (read his complete history [here](#)). It is a true *massale* selection, with a diverse genetic makeup. The lineage of these plants can be traced back to Paul Masson, who brought Pinot Noir cuttings from Burgundy to California in the late 1800s. The genetic diversity of the plants imparts greater complexity to the wine, but also perpetuates the leaf-roll virus that came with the vines from Burgundy. This virus inhibits the ability of the vines to carry out photosynthesis and produce sugar. The result is wines that are more delicate, naturally lower in alcohol, and have extremely fine tannins.

TASTING NOTES: The 2023 *West Ridge* is a delicate, almost fragile Pinot Noir, with an intense mineral character and pure red fruit. Juicy and bright, it possesses a core of lean, high-toned fruit with electric acidity. The bouquet shows notes of pomegranate, pomelo, sage and saline. This wine captures the essence of the sea, less than three miles away, and the black clay soils on which these vines grow.

SERVICE NOTES: The 2023 *West Ridge* is expressive and possesses plenty of early charm. However it has plenty of acidity to go the distance in the cellar. Reminiscent of the 2010, this wine holds the potential to age into an ethereal, fragrant beauty.

Vine age:	Planted 1992-95	79%
	Planted 2002	21%
Blocks:	Block 6	27%
	Block 7	52%
	Block 12	21%
Clones:	Mount Eden	52%
	Swan	43%
	Pommard-Wädenswil	5%
Production:	440 cases	
Bottling date:	March 2025	
Formats:	750ml and magnum	
New oak:	29%	
Alcohol:	12.5%	

