

# HIRSCH VINEYARDS

## 2024 *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:** Delicate and slightly reserved upon opening, the aromatics of the 2024 *West Ridge* unfold gradually. Gentle red fruit opens to subtle impressions of minerality and the distinctive black clay of this site. On the palate, the wine is light-footed but persistent. Reminiscent of the 2010 *West Ridge*, this wine will gain weight, texture, and length with age.

**SERVICE NOTES:** we recommend cellaring for at least six months after release. If you wish to drink now, we recommend opening 1-2 hours before drinking.

|                |                   |     |
|----------------|-------------------|-----|
| Vine age:      | Planted 1992-95   | 67% |
|                | Planted 2002      | 33% |
| Blocks:        | Block 6           | 36% |
|                | Block 7           | 31% |
|                | Block 12          | 33% |
| Clones:        | Mount Eden        | 31% |
|                | Swan              | 31% |
|                | Pommard-Wädenswil | 38% |
| Production:    | 440 cases         |     |
| Bottling date: | April 2026        |     |
| Formats:       | 750ml and magnum  |     |
| New oak:       | 31%               |     |
| Alcohol:       | 13.0%             |     |

