



HILL FAMILY  
E S T A T E



## 2019 “Stewart Ranch” Pinot Noir

**Production:** 253 cases

**Composition:** 100% Pinot Noir

**Vineyards:** 100% Stewart Ranch

**Appellation:** Napa-Carneros

**Elevation:** Sea level

**Cooperage:** 45% new oak (18% Francois Freres, 18% Tonnellerie O, 9% Meyrieux)

**Alcohol:** 13.8%, TA 5.3, pH 3.62

**Bottling date:** August 24, 2020

**Release date:** December 2021

**Release price:** \$56.00

The Stewart Ranch vineyard in Carneros has a cool breezy climate that brings out the depth and finesse of the Pinot Noir grape. Planted with the 115 clone on 101-14, and utilizing a 5 x 8 spacing, Stewart is on a peninsula in the Estuary and keeps its leaves in a stoic manner most years so that the fruit can stay shaded in the middle of the day. We had low normal winter rains, with budbreak in mid-March, and flowering in mid-May. 50% veraison occurred on July 25, and the season unfolded with only moderate heat spikes and cool temperatures in the mornings. We brought in the Pinot Noir on September 8 at 23.1 Brix to preserve the delicacy that is so important to this variety. We gave the Pinot Noir 4 days of cold soak and fermentation with MV3001 yeast. It was in an open-top tank, so we used mostly punch downs on the cap. It was pressed off after 10 days at -1.6Brix and went to barrel (dry) a few days later, so we could add malolactic bacteria and let the wine relax in its new oak.

### **Winemaker Alison Doran’s tasting notes:**

The 2019 Stewart Ranch Pinot Noir has elegant aromas of black currant, caramel, baking spices and subtle notes of cedar in the background. The palate is lively with flavors of wild plum, tangy sage, rosemary and black cherry. This wine has an extremely approachable and velvety finish.