

brick & mortar

- est. 2011 -

2016
pinot noir
cougar rock vineyard
napa valley



TECHNICAL NOTES:

*Vineyard Designate: Cougar Rock Vineyard
AVA: Napa Valley
Production: 170 cases
Alcohol: 13.0%
Release Date: October 15th, 2018*

VINEYARD

The Antinori California vineyard is known to brick & mortar as Cougar Rock Vineyard, with the name stemming from the first sight of the craggy rock feature at the highest point of the estate by Piero Antinori in 1966.

Cougar Rock Vineyard was the sole source for our inaugural wines. Nestled from 1450 to 1800 feet above sea level, the vineyard lies due east of Yountville, high up in the Vaca Mountain Range of the eastern hills in Napa Valley. Within the range rests Foss Valley – the original throughway from the coast to the Sacramento Valley for the early settlers in California. In the heart of Foss Valley, the 1200 acre estate encompasses the furthest eastward portion of the Atlas Peak AVA in Napa Valley.

VINTAGE

The 2016 vintage was again early, but not as early as 2015. Yields were near normal in all vineyards with above-average quality. With a relatively even growing season that followed welcomed winter rains to alleviate drought conditions, the mild daytime high temperatures and colder nights aided in producing fruit with wonderful depth and concentration. 2016 will go down as the fifth consecutive vintage of exceptional fruit quality in Napa Valley.

WINEMAKING

We strive to allow the site to shine in every wine we produce. All lots of Pinot Noir undergo an extended cold soak until native yeast begin a spontaneous fermentation in open-top fermenters, where the grapes are punched down by hand once to twice per day. Our small lot fermentations, without any whole cluster, take upwards of a month before a light pressing to barrel for their extended aging. Our Pinot Noir remains in 100% used French oak barrels for 16 months and then is racked once before it is bottled unfinned and unfiltered.

WINE

The 2016 Cougar Rock Vineyard Pinot Noir exudes aromas beautifully bright cherry, hints of graphite, a dusty earthiness and the savory herbs of rosemary and thyme. Lush on the palate, this wine showcases the beautiful minerality with very fine tannins, bright acidity and a long, expansive finish. This wine shines in its youth and we expect it to continue to improve for the next 8-15 years.

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PO Box 1508 | Healdsburg, CA | 95448

sales@brickandmortarwines.com | brickandmortarwines.com