

Cakebread Cellars



2014 Pinot Noir Annahala Ranch Anderson Valley

Vineyards

Our 60-acre Annahala Ranch in coastal Mendocino County is located just northwest of the small town of Boonville in southern Anderson Valley, a cool-climate region celebrated for its world-class pinot noirs. Annahala's tree-bordered slopes, loamy soils, marine-influenced climate and multiple, high-quality clones of pinot noir yield wines with fresh, pure aromas, bright, rich flavors and fine, supple tannins.

Vintage 2014

2014 was another in a series of excellent vintages in Anderson Valley. A warm, dry spring initiated early budbreak and segued into a consistently mild summer characterized by cool, foggy mornings, warm afternoons and cool evenings. These conditions produced grapes with an ideal balance of ripe fruit flavors and bright, refreshing acidity.

Winemaking

Our 2014 Annahala Ranch Pinot Noir is a blend of four top-quality French Dijon clones of the variety: 777 (46% of the blend, contributing bold fruit and balanced acidity); 667 (21%, dark color and structured tannins); 115 (21%, lighter color and softer tannins); and 114 (12%, dark fruit and supple tannins). Each clonal lot was handled gently and cold-soaked for several days prior to fermentation to extract early color and flavor. In 2014, we fermented 13% of the juice with stems – a traditional Burgundian practice – which contributed to the wine's structure and added a pleasing spice tone. Gentle daily punchdowns of the skins during fermentation and extended maceration time post-fermentation extracted optimal color, flavor and tannin. The clonal lots aged six months in French Burgundian oak barrels, 38% new, before blending. The blended wine spent another four months in barrel prior to bottling in July, 2015.

Tasting Notes

Our 2014 Annahala Pinot Noir opens with fresh, pretty aromas of black cherry, raspberry and dark plum fruit, complemented by intriguing hints of rose petal, lavender, brown spices, warm earth and chocolate. On the dense, beautifully textured palate, the wine offers rich, succulent flavors of dark cherry, blackberry and plum that pick up zesty spice and mineral tones on the long, fruit-filled finish. While this sumptuous pinot noir is delicious now, it will gain additional complexity with another 3-5 years of bottle age.

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| Blend: | 100% Pinot Noir | Alcohol: | 15.2% |
| Vineyards: | 100% Annahala Ranch, Anderson Valley | Total acidity: | 0.59 g/100 ml |
| Harvest dates: | September 11 th - 16 th , 2014 | pH: | 3.61 |
| Fermentation: | small stainless steel tanks, with daily punchdowns | Bottled: | July 28, 2015 |
| Barrel aging: | 10 months in French oak barrels, 38% new | Winemaker: | Julianne Laks |