

Cakebread Cellars



2015 Pinot Noir Two Creeks Anderson Valley

Vineyards

Two Creeks Pinot Noir is a blend of grapes from our Annahala and Apple Barn estate vineyards in Mendocino County's Anderson Valley, a cool coastal appellation renowned for its superb pinots. The region's close proximity to the Pacific Ocean has a dramatic cooling effect that promotes slow, even ripening. Annahala and Apple Barn share this marine-influenced climate and an overlapping mix of nine superior pinot noir clones, six of which were used for the 2015 vintage. Closer to the coast and sheltered by trees, Annahala is the cooler and foggier of the two sites, while Apple Barn is more exposed and enjoys warmer afternoons. Blending their fruit yields a beautifully aromatic, flavorful and balanced pinot noir.

Vintage 2015

2015 was the latest in a string of fine vintages in Anderson Valley. Mild winter weather fostered early budbreak, flowering and grape set while ongoing drought conditions coupled with a notably light crop led to an early harvest of small-berried grapes boasting intense varietal flavors.

Winemaking

We hand-harvested our Anderson Valley pinot noir grapes at night to preserve their freshness and varietal intensity, keeping the fruit from a half-dozen distinctive blocks of vines separate. The individual lots were cold-soaked for early extraction of color and flavor, then fermented in small, open-top tanks. Native yeast from the vineyards initiated fermentation, which proceeded slowly until the fermenting wine was inoculated with a cultured yeast strain. Gentle punch downs assisted in the extraction of each lot's aromas and flavors. Once fermentation completed, the free run juice from each lot was drained from the skins and transferred to French oak barrels, 37% of which were new, where they aged for three months before blending the lots together. The blended wine was then aged another seven months in barrel prior to bottling.

Winemaker Notes

Our 2015 Two Creeks Pinot Noir displays fresh, fragrant aromas of red and black cherry, raspberry and tea-leaf spice. The palate is lush and mouth-filling with rich blackberry, strawberry, raspberry and plum flavors that segue into a long finish suffused with notes of black cherry, spice and mineral. Delicious now, this full-flavored, cool-climate pinot noir will develop additional complexity with up to five more years of bottle aging.

Blend:	100% Pinot Noir	Alcohol:	14.7%
Vineyards:	52% Apple Barn. 48% Annahala	Total acidity:	0.61 grams/100 ml
Harvest date:	September 9-16, 2015	pH:	3.59
Fermentation:	100% stainless steel	Bottled:	July 12, 2016
Barrel aging:	10 months in French oak barrels, 37% new	Winemaker:	Julianne Laks