

Forge

C E L L A R S



PINOT NOIR 2018

Bellows Vineyard

100% Pinot Noir
East side of Seneca Lake (Burdett, NY)
Harvest Date: September 22
Soils: clay, limestone and shale
1,000ft elevation
Year Planted: 2016-2017
Spontaneous fermentation in barrel
Alcohol: 12%
Production: 50 cases

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2018 vintage was challenging in the lakes, but I deeply enjoyed it. After 28 vintages in the Rhône (and eight vintages on Seneca Lake), the wines that I am the proudest of are the wines from the challenging Rhône vintages: 1993, 1996, 1997, 2008, and 2014. All of them show unexpected quality, drinkability, and freshness. They demonstrate how precise and hard work can potentialize a vintage. The best way to understand this reality is to taste our 2018 Pinot Noir offerings. Everyone knows how unforgiving Pinot Noir is, particularly in the Finger Lakes. Yet, when treated with precision, hard work, discipline, and love, it is a very rewarding grape. - LB

BELLOWS VINEYARD

This is our inaugural vintage of wine from our “home” farm, aptly named “Bellows” because of the intense winds that blow across the land. This site is special because of the drying, cleansing, and toughening effect of these winds. In 2016, we began our high-density planting, with vines spaced three-feet apart and seven-feet between rows—roughly twice the typical planting density. The intent is to control vigor and reduce yields, optimize the energy input used in the vineyard, and encourage natural competition among the vines, prompting the roots to dig deeper and offer a greater expression of the site. Our vision is to farm it in a unique way that is referred to as “biointensive” or “regenerative” agriculture. We are only in the beginning stages of this journey, but the results have been encouraging, and the grapes are packed with complex flavors. In 2018 and 2019, we were able to stay about 90% organic, a remarkable achievement given the challenges 2018 posed for grape growing.

TASTING NOTES

morello cherry - black pepper - strawberry tea

The finesse that we get from our estate Pinot Noir makes sense given the extremely low yields we dealt with in 2018. The grapes were immaculate, a rarity in this vintage. This wine is already rivaling the Leidenfrost Pinot in our portfolio of wines—an interesting contest between two sites that are close in distance but far in micro-climate.