



## IPO WINES

**COUNTRY**  
USA

**REGION**  
California

**APPELLATION**  
Sonoma County

**SOIL TYPE**  
Goldridge Loam

**VARIETAL(S)**  
100% Pinot Noir

**FARMING**  
Traditional

**WINEMAKER**  
Nicholas Maloney



# 2016 Father John Russian River Valley "Vine Hill Road" Pinot Noir

IMPORTED BY IPO Wines

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Father John is made in honor of the life of the late Reverend John Weaver, a renowned Episcopalian priest. Father John was extremely influential on those who were lucky enough to share their time with him. He was dedicated to a life of honesty and reverence and was committed to living in peace.

In 2010 Father John Wines was started with the idea that each wine should be true to its provenance. That is to say, each vineyard should express its own distinct character. Their wines are able to fully express their specific site and local microclimates, yet are distinctive in their structural balances and individual flavors. All of their vineyard sites have strong Pacific coast influences.

Owner Nicholas Maloney, John's grandson, started Father John Winery during his stay in France which included work in Haute Savoie, Margaux, Nuits-saint-Georges and Pernand Vergeleses in the Côte d'Or. His experiences in France influenced his philosophy of creating wines that highlight the freshness, delicacy and the acidity of Pinot over power or ripeness. They create wines at Father John that age gracefully and are designed to accompany fine cuisine.

The way they produce their wines is both simple and refined, beginning with the ancient technique of fermenting grapes whole cluster with native yeasts. This gives a structural component to the wine that is otherwise unattainable with the use of the destemmer. At every step along the way, they elect to maximize the quality and depth of wines are seldom fined and never filtered to preserve their integrity. Once fermented, wines rest for less than a year in French oak barrels from the Forest of Allier before they are bottled.

### WINE NOTES

This wine is their flagship Pinot Noir, and the vineyard from which the first ever bottle of Father John Wine was produced. Vine Hill Road is a historic viticultural area in Western Sonoma county. It was a thriving vineyard from the late 1800's up until prohibition when the vines were torn up and replaced by crops and orchards over the years. By the 1980's a restoration began and pinot was planted in its fertile soils. Today, there are still some apple trees scattered throughout the property reminding us of the areas rich history.

The property sits near the top of vine hill, 14 miles from the ocean as the crow flies. They produce their wine with only the grapes from the West side of the ranch which is bordered by a grove of redwood trees. The canopy of these redwoods limit the amount of direct sun on the grapes and helps achieve the fresh, delicate, and polished palate that they seek to create in this wine. They pick the grapes with enough sugars to produce a wine that finishes between 12-13% ABV and serves as a beautiful and unique expression of a true Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

The grapes are primarily Pommard clone on AXR rootstock in goldridge sandy loam, where the finest few feet are sandy and beneath there is an orange-red colored clay that is excellent drainage and root development which is ideal for dry farming.

The result is very delicate ruby red wine which incredible aromatics. Seductive, bright and complex, this medium to medium minus bodied wine carries notes of strawberry, raspberry, and redcurrant with a touch of spice. This wine is easy drinking, and well poised to age.