

2016

## GAP'S CROWN PINOT NOIR

*Sonoma Coast*



PATZ & HALL



### VINEYARD CHARACTER

One of the Sonoma Coast's great vineyards, Gap's Crown was first planted to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in 2002. Located in the foothills of the Sonoma Mountain, above the Petaluma Gap, it offers a variety of soil types at elevations ranging from 300 to 800 feet. The prized sections we work with are on the flank of the mountain. They are two of the highest blocks on the vineyard and are planted to clones 667 and 828, in Goulding series soils, with some heavier clay interspersed with volcanic rock and lots of gravel. These soils are extremely well drained, and coupled with the site's wind and fog, help to ensure low yields. Gap's Crown is one of the last vineyards we harvest each vintage.

### VINTAGE NOTES

2016 was another fantastic growing season. It started out with good winter rainfall, which after four years of drought, was a big relief. While the summer of 2016 was quite hot, a perfectly timed cool-down over a three-week period in August allowed the grapes to ripen with moderate sugar levels. It also preserved the acidity that is so essential to making great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Thus, the quality is exceptional with vivid, alluring flavors in the Chardonnays and deep colors and gorgeous aromatics in the Pinot Noir.

### TASTING NOTES

This vineyard sits high on a rock strewn, windswept hill directly overlooking the Petaluma Gap, the coastal mountain feature that feeds the cool Pacific air into the Russian River basin. Usually the last vineyard we pick each year, this extremely slow ripening site shows deeply fruity aromas of black cherry, plum, and cassis. Notes of sandalwood, moist fresh earth, and a faint waft of ocean spray define this wine as one of the most unique in our lineup. A crowd-pleasing richness is tempered by a fresh beam of mouthwatering acidity. Gap's Crown Vineyard is a very long-lived wine that rewards patient cellaring.

### WINEMAKING

- 100% Pinot Noir
- Multi-yeast fermentations (native yeast, followed by cultured yeast)
- 10% whole cluster added
- 100% malo-lactic fermentation in barrel
- 100% Burgundian French oak barrels (65% new; 35% 1-2-year old)
- Bottled without filtration to preserve the wine's aromas and flavors and enhance aging potential

### THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

*Bill Price - Gap's Crown Vineyard - Sonoma Coast*

Originally planted by viticultural icon William Hill, today Gap's Crown is owned by Bill Price. Bill has been a significant figure in the California wine industry since he purchased Beringer Wine Estates in 1996. After selling Beringer, Bill became a partner in Kistler, and today, he owns Durell Vineyard from which we also source grapes. In 2013, Bill purchased Gap's Crown, which has become the crown jewel of his vineyard portfolio. Fruit from Gap's Crown has become a key part of our Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. We bottled our first Gap's Crown vineyard-designate wine in 2007.

RELEASE DATE: September 2018  
RETAIL PRICE PER 750 ML: \$70.00  
CASES PRODUCED: 851  
LABEL ALCOHOL: 14.5%

*James Hall*  
JAMES HALL | Winemaker

PATZHALL.COM