



CLOS PEGASE  
NAPA VALLEY

## 2018 PINOT NOIR

MITSUKO'S VINEYARD | CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY

**M**ITSUKO'S VINEYARD, located in the cool Carneros region, has proven over the years to have an abundance of ideal sites for Pinot Noir. Purchased by Clos Pegase as bare land in 1989, the winery has continued to refine the vineyard's plantings in order to maximize the site's potential, and subsequently, the Clos Pegase Pinot Noir continues to evolve each year.

### HARVEST NOTES

After the dramatic end to the 2017 vintage, the 2018 harvest was a return to normal; although a normal we have not seen in years. Mild conditions throughout flowering meant fruit set was extended and successful. Ultimately leading to high yields which slowed down ripening. The hot temperatures in July and August relented from September onwards. There were no late season heat spikes or serious harvest rain events, which meant the hang time of the grapes could be extended. The result was naturally balanced wines, which were lower in alcohol and retained good amounts of natural acidity. This was one of the longest harvests we had seen since 2011, starting on the 31st of August and ending on the 5th of November. The 2018 harvest can be summed up as a "Classic" Napa Valley vintage. Definitely a vintage to follow closely.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

Hand picked in the early morning, our Pinot Noir grapes were delivered to the winery whilst the temperatures were still cool. Here they were sorted and destemmed before being sent to tank for four days cold soak. After the cold soak, the must (young wine) was allowed to warm, encouraging a native fermentation, which was co-inoculated with Assmanhausen and RC212 yeast. Punch downs happened twice a day, until the wine was dry. Where it was then gently pressed to barrel, where it underwent malolactic fermentation. After nine months in barrel, it was lightly filtered and bottled.

### TASTING NOTES

The silky texture on the palate, along with the crisp tannins, delivers a pleasurable fruit driven experience. Subtle oak aromas intermingle with cherry, rhubarb and spice on the nose. The expansive palate delivers lots of red fruits, smooth acidity and a long finish.

## TECHNICAL INFO

### VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir

### VINEYARD

100% Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros

### HARVEST DATES

September 7th - September 20th

### FERMENTATION

100% Malolactic  
fermentation in barrel

### AGING

9 months in French oak  
30% new French oak

### BOTTLING DATE

June 2019

### ALCOHOL

14.5%

### PRODUCTION

1,300 cases

