

# ELK COVE VINEYARDS 2016 Reserve



**VINTAGE 2016** was a year of unusual weather that led to beautiful fruit at lower than average yields. In spring, an early heat spike meant a very condensed time frame for bloom. This gave us smaller than average berries and clusters and set us on the path for our third early harvest in a row. Thankfully, summer weather was cooler than average, which slowed down ripening and allowed flavor development to catch up to sugar accumulation. Due to our small initial crop estimates, we held off thinning until the last minute to delay ripening and add “hang-time”, an important factor in the development of complex flavors.

We were a little stunned when our first fruit hit the crush-pad in the last days of August, setting a record for our earliest harvest in 40 years. September and October brought relief from the heat with mild evenings and cool nights that allowed for slow, even ripening. We picked fruit that was absolutely pristine and perfectly ripe, at a gradual pace that allowed us to give our full attention to each block and work shorter hours than in a typical harvest season.

We are optimistic that 2016 will be an outstanding vintage, reminiscent of 2012 and 2014, with wines that show great balance and concentration.

**VINEYARD:** Our winemaking team considers barrels from all of our estate plantings to make the Reserve our very best Pinot Noir. In 2015, the final blend included two barrels each from Mount Richmond, Five Mountain, Clay Court and our original Elk Cove Heritage Site in addition to our most favorite whole-cluster barrel from our newest vineyard site, Goodrich.

**WINEMAKING:** We only make a Reserve in exceptional years, selecting less than 1% of our Pinot Noir to make the best wine we can imagine, balancing diverse components from our best vineyard blocks.

“In 2016 our best barrels were spread between five vineyard sites, including two barrels from Goodrich which added about 9% whole-cluster. We think of this as a true reserve meaning we pick the finest 9 barrels in the cellar from our top single vineyard sites. This wine saw 50% new oak of only extra-tight grain light toasts from top Burgundian cooperages.”

- Owner/Winemaker Adam Campbell

Our Reserve is both big and structured, designed to improve with cellaring for 20+ years.

**TASTING NOTES:** Rich in the extreme, this wine exudes red cherries, toffee and sarsaparilla with a waft of ocean breeze salinity. The palate has a wet rock minerality that complements flavors of cherry, black plums and cranberry that meld into a firm finish of cinnamon, tobacco and cacao.

## VITICULTURE & ENOLOGY:

Vine Age: 8-41 years  
Harvest Sugars: 24 brix  
Vatting: Fermentation in small open top  
steel fermentors.  
10 months in 75% French oak.  
pH: 3.55  
TA: 5.7  
Alc: 14% v/v  
Bottled August 2017  
Cases Produced: 199

## REVIEWS:

**92 Points - Robert Parker's Wine Advocate (August, 2018)**

“... a nose of dried cranberries and dried red cherries with floral perfume, dried leaves, licorice and warm earth. Light to medium-bodied, it has good concentration of red and black cherries and berries in the mouth with earth and spice layers, a firm frame of grainy tannins and juicy acidity, finishing long and layered.” - E.B.