



AMERICAN WINES
SINCE 1835

2018 VIRGINIA DARE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

History

Virginia Dare Winery celebrates the people, places, and history that have shaped American winemaking. According to legend, Virginia Dare, the first English woman born to the Lost Colony of Roanoke, was transformed into a white doe and killed by a fearsome hunter. As the doe bled upon the ground, juice from nearby grapes turned red. For centuries, this tale was a staple of southern folklore. In 1865, the Garrett brothers of North Carolina, purchased the state's first commercial winery and capitalized on the legend by developing a brand of wine called Virginia Dare. In honor of this early winemaking history, the Family Coppola has revived the vintage charm of the original wines with the classic American spirit.

Vintage Notes

The 2018 growing season saw light precipitation through spring and then steady mild heat over the course of the summer with occasional days of extreme temperatures. These conditions created extremely well-balanced grapes and a good healthy crop yield. We harvested a few weeks later than we did on the previous vintage, thrilled by exceptional quality across the board.

Winemaker Notes

The Russian River Valley offers the perfect climate for growing Pinot Noir. Fog rolls in nightly from the nearby Pacific Ocean and cools the temperature down as much as 35-40 degrees each evening. This temperature differential allows the grapes to ripen slowly and retain their natural acidity for better balance. The appellation is also known for a diversity of soil compositions. Each vineyard influences the fruit with different flavor profiles. When blended together, this tapestry creates a more complex wine.

Tasting Notes

2018 is an excellent year for Pinot Noir. The seasonal influence on this year's fruit produced wines with precision, weight, and fragrance. Dark fruits dominate this vintage, with nuances of blackberries and spiced plums. A more exaggerated floral edge is perceived with hints of rose petals and lavender mingling with earthy notes of forest floor and tea leaves. An opulent body and expression, smooth tannins and a long finish make it all the more appealing.

Winemaking Analysis

APPELLATION: Russian River Valley, Sonoma County, California	ALCOHOL: 14.5%	BARREL REGIMEN: 10 months in French oak
BLEND: 100% Pinot Noir	pH: 3.62	
	TOTAL ACID: 0.58 g/100ml	

