



# BELLY OF THE WHALE

## 2021 CATTLEYA PINOT NOIR



*“Do you dare to enter the Belly of the Whale?”*

### THE VINEYARD SITE

The Sun Chase Vineyard sits high atop a west facing slope in the southeastern portion of the Sonoma Coast appellation. Perched at an elevation that rests above the cool maritime fog layer and overlooks western Sonoma County, the dynamic microclimates of warm hilltops and cool swales make this unique vineyard an ideal site for elegant, complex Pinot Noir. This wine is a perfect blend of clones 667 and 777.

### THE CRAFT

Sourced from three high elevation blocks overlooking the southern portion of the Sonoma Coast AVA, the fruit for this beautiful wine was harvested over the course of a week, from September 3rd through the 10th. Slow, methodical hand-sorting removed any undesired clusters before the pristine fruit was transferred to an open top, stainless steel tank for native fermentation. Full extraction of color and flavor was achieved through twice daily punch downs by hand, as cold-soak through end of fermentation in tank lasted 21 days. Once dry, the wine was racked to 75% new French oak barrels where it aged undisturbed for 18 months before finally coming to rest in bottle. Bottling of this unfiltered and unfiltered Pinot Noir took place March 1st of 2023.



### THE TASTE

Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir in its grandest form, this is an extraordinary wine that has only just begun to tip its hand on what lies ahead. Notes of fig jam, macerated dark berries, sandalwood, and Asian spice waft upward, while the palate is coated with a luscious profile of Bing cherry, plum, and clove; all indicative of the coastal influences of the legendary site from which this wine was born. Elegant and approachable in its youth, this wine's backbone of life-giving acidity and fine-grained tannin ensure it has its best years on the distant horizon.

Alc: 14.5% Cases produced: 164 cases (9L equivalent)  
- 750 mL. SRP: \$85.

### THE MEANING BEHIND THE NAME

The passage through the magical threshold of the transition into a sphere of rebirth is symbolized in the worldwide womb image of the belly of the whale. The hero, instead of conquering or accumulating the power of the threshold, is swallowed into the unknown, appearing to have died.