



BELLY OF THE WHALE

2022 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 1,300 ft, this high elevation vineyard 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 from August 31st through September 2nd. Slow, methodical hand-sorting removed any undesired clusters before the pristine fruit was transferred to an open top, stainless steel tank for native fermentation. The must was in contact with the skins for a duration of 18 days, including 10 days of cold soak. Once dry, the wine was racked to 80% new French oak barrels where it aged undisturbed for 16 months before finally coming to rest in bottle. Bottling of this unfinned and unfiltered Pinot Noir took place February 2nd of 2024.



THE TASTE

Evocative of the cool, crisp air and bracing maritime winds of the Sonoma Coast, this gorgeous Pinot Noir possesses lifted aromas of crushed Bing cherry, cranberry, fresh sandalwood and a savory hint of Herbs de Provence, all contained within a crystalline medium ruby hue. On the palate, flavors are bright, fresh and focused in the form of raspberries and strawberries, while complexity is enhanced through hints of fresh oak and cedar wood. Enticing and flashy in its youth with vibrant acidity and noticeable structure, this wine carries a promise for great aging potential.

Cases produced: 115 (9L equivalent) | Alc. 14.5% | RS: 0.61 g/L | pH: 3.57 | TA: 5.9 g/L | 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.