



# KELLER ESTATE

The family-founded Keller Estate winery overlooks the Petaluma River Valley and Coastal Mountains from the southern reaches of the Petaluma Gap. Since 1998, Ana Keller has directed her family's property, and she played an instrumental role in developing the Petaluma Gap AVA, which is known for its persistent Pacific breezes and dense fog. These conditions, and their effects on the vines, along with our soil profiles and hillside aspect facing West, define our terroir by creating unique, aromatic wines which are vibrant and balanced.



Harvest Date: September 3, 2021

pH: 3.62

Alcohol: 14.1%

Cooperage: 25% new oak selected from  
François Frères, Damy, Cadus

Bottling Date: July 5, 2022

Cases: 571

SRP: \$62

## 2021 LA CRUZ VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

ESTATE GROWN - PETALUMA GAP - SONOMA COUNTY

### IN THE VINEYARD

Keller Estate was once part of the ancient seabed below San Pablo Bay. These mineral-rich, clay soils define our site and result in a rich minerality, a signature of our wines. The site's proximity on the Western edge of Sonoma Mountain, above the Petaluma River, is the southern stretch of the Petaluma Gap. Winds from the Pacific Ocean are pulled through the 'Gap' by the warming Central Valley interior which impart distinctive fruit and floral aromatics which define this AVA.

We implement regenerative farming which focuses on top-soil renewal and increased cover crop and beneficial insect biodiversity, enhancing our own regional ecosystem as well as contributing to the health and vitality of the earth.

### VINTAGE

By November 2020, it became apparent that the persistent, multi-year drought was adversely impacting the ponds' levels. To reduce vine stress, we irrigated the vineyards early in the growing season to encourage them to pull nutrients from the soil and establish a healthy canopy. Keller Estate's three rain-collection ponds, which irrigate our vineyards, olive groves, and landscaping, were almost dry by May. Fortunately, we had fewer than anticipated heat spells in the summer. With well-established vineyard sites and intensive canopy management, the vines produced beautiful clusters, albeit with small berries. As a result, the 2021 wines were concentrated, succulent, and rich.

### WINEMAKING

At Keller Estate, we harvest our fruit at night to ensure that the fruit is cool when it arrives at the winery in the morning. Cool evenings are a signature of the Petaluma Gap, and Northern California in general, even during droughts and most heat spikes. Once at the winery, we de-stem the clusters into whole berries and chill the berries for 24 hours to initiate a cold soak period. The fermentations are native yeasts, indigenous to this area, hence our care to farm regeneratively. The backbone of the 2021 La Cruz Pinot Noir is the Pommard clone, blended with other estate-grown clones like 667, 777, and 828, in our lower-elevation, hillside blocks. The barrels were aged in our cave for 10 months before bottling.

### TASTING NOTES

2021 La Cruz Vineyard Pinot Noir has a deep garnet color with notes of cassis and citrus on the nose. In the mouth, notes of black currant are revealed alongside supple, integrated tannins. The wine has a lovely aromatic depth reminiscent of red peppercorns and spiced cake.

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