

# MIURA

Miura (myu rä) n. 1. Derived from Don Eduardo Miura, the most famous breeder of Spanish fighting bulls; for the Spanish, Miura is a legendary name signifying nobility, boldness and power.

Miura is our program that focuses on what I feel are the best regions in California for the growing of Pinot Noir. Within each of those regions proprietor Master Sommelier Emmanuel Kemiji has selected the vineyard that best exemplifies that area stylistically and qualitatively.

## 2016 MIURA, PINOT NOIR, PISONI VINEYARD, SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS

### **The Vineyard**

This property has become the most talked about Pinot Noir property in California for good reason. The wines from this vineyard have an intensity and richness unmatched by any other Pinot Noirs anywhere. The vineyard is tucked among the hills and dry creek beds of the southern part of the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey. It lies in a secluded corner of the hills separating the Salinas Valley from Big Sur and the Monterey Coast. Vines are planted in several small blocks on what appears to be gravel and sand eroded down from the mountains. The blocks are whimsically named after people, objects and family members—“Camper,” “Mommy’s,” “Elias,” to name a few (our grapes come from the “Camper” and “Hermanos” sections. The site is dry, almost arid, but not particularly hot. Most of the vineyard faces east to southeast, capturing more morning than afternoon sun. The intensity with which this vineyard is farmed is unmatched in the Highlands, or anywhere else for that matter. We ferment the Pisoni with a measure of whole bunches in the bottom of the tank, and punch it down by hand. I like the moderate amount of tannin that adding some stems to the fermentation brings—just enough to give some refreshing grip to the mouth feel, and keep the wine from being too soft. We have been privileged to make wine from this property since 1999. This wine is fermented with native yeasts, has about 33% whole clusters and is aged for 12 months in French oak barrels (67% new) before being bottled unfiltered.

### **The 2016**

After a number of years of prolonged drought there was plenty of rain at the beginning of the year. The spring and summer were cooler than normal which led to an even and slightly less than normal yields. The wine is firmer and more well-balanced than usual.

**417 cases produced**