

Antonio Galloni
presents

vinous
explore all things wine



2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Rapley Trail Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir | 94

One of the many highlights in this range, the 2016 Pinot Noir Rapley Trail Vineyard is endowed with tremendous character and pedigree. Bright red cherry, rose petal, sage and mint notes are all given an extra burst of energy from the 40% whole clusters used in fermentation. Above all else, though, the Rapley Trail impresses with its striking overall balance and sheer class. It is a very beautiful wine in every way.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Rapley Trail Vineyard 'Henry Ayrton's Block'

Estate Pinot Noir | 93

Bright acids, floral aromatics and brilliant, finely sculpted fruit are some of the signatures in Fogarty's 2016 Pinot Noir Henry Ayrton's Block Rapley Trail Vineyard. Sweet red berries, mint, blood orange and wild flowers are beautifully delineated in this brisk, super-expressive Pinot from Fogarty. There is so much to like here.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Rapley Trail Vineyard 'James Thomas Block'

Estate Pinot Noir | 93

The 2016 Pinot Noir James Thomas Block Rapley Trail Vineyard is fascinating to taste next to the two other wines that emerge from this site. The Thomas Block is dense, powerful and explosive through the middle, with serious structure backing everything up. Wild cherry and plum abound, but the 2016 needs a few years in bottle to fully come together. I imagine it will always be a big wine.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Windy Hill Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir | 93

The 2016 Pinot Noir Windy Hill Vineyard is intensely floral and savory, much of that coming from the 50% whole clusters used in fermentation. There is real personality and class here. The Windy Hill blossoms nicely with time in the glass. The 2016 is only the second vintage of the Windy Hill following its recent replanting.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Will's Cabin Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir | 91

The 2016 Pinot Noir Will's Cabin Vineyard is marked by a distinctive spiced character that gives the wine an exotic feel, while the fruit is pushed into the background. The Will's Cabin emerges from a north-facing site near Fogarty's Gist Ranch with similar soils and is therefore quite different in style from the silkier, more perfumed wines that emerge from the Fogarty ranch on Skyline Blvd, which is about five miles to the north.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Razorback Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir | 91

The 2016 Pinot Noir Razorback Vineyard is marked by expressive tobacco and earthy notes that give the wine its distinctive signatures. Powerful, broad and ample on the palate, the 2016 is one of the bigger wines in this range. Razorback is the lowest elevation on the estate vineyard.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir | 94

Another highlight in this range, the 2016 Pinot Noir Mindego Ridge Vineyard is positively stellar. A dense, dark expression of Pinot emerges from this powerful, super-concentrated wine. Generous blue/purplish berry fruit, sage, tobacco and menthol add to an impression of gravitas. The Mindego Ridge packs a serious punch. It is also the inkiest and most overt Pinot in the range. In a word: superb.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery La Vida Bella Vineyard Pinot Noir | 93

The 2016 Pinot Noir La Vida Bella Vineyard is a new wine in the range. Pliant and open-knit, but with striking energy, the Vida Bella is super-expressive. Sweet red cherry, mint and blood orange all develop in this finely sketched, nuanced Pinot. The 33% whole clusters add attractive aromatic top notes without being overly dominant.

2016 Thomas Fogarty Winery Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir | 91

The 2016 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains) is a gorgeous appellation-level wine. Expressive red berry and crushed flower overtones run through a translucent, beautifully expressive Pinot that captures the essence of the Santa Cruz Mountains. All the elements simply fall into place. What a beautiful wine this is.

