



## 2014 ALBATROSS RIDGE ESTATE RESERVE PINOT NOIR

### *Wine Enthusiast*

“From stunningly set vines overlooking the Carmel Valley that in this vintage produced only 1.25 tons an acre (or 1.12 pounds per plant) comes this **stellar wine**, redolent on the nose with black plum, mulberry, turned earth, wet mud, woody sagebrush, incense and sandalwood. There is great energy on the palate, with mulberry and elderberry flavors enhanced by light coffee, soil and fennel bulbs.” **95 Points: Superb; A great achievement**

-Matt Kettmann, February 2017

### *Wine Review Online*

“The Estate vineyard is one of the coolest growing sites in California, and fans of bright acidity in Pinot Noir will find plenty of flavor to go along with the vibrancy. Cherry, cinnamon, talc and touches of vanilla and dry earth are abundant, and the blooms with sweet oak and a mild citric kiss.” **94 Points**

-Rich Cook, December 2016

### *PinotFile*

“The Albatross Ridge 25-acre vineyard is located just seven miles from the Pacific Ocean in Carmel Valley at 1,250 feet elevation with limestone and shale soils. The site is cool and windswept with degree days falling below the upper threshold for the coolest Winkler Region I winegrowing designation (annual growing degree days from the estate vineyard are between 1650 and 1950 GDD). The result is a very long growing season allowing the grapes to achieve ripe flavors even at low Brix.”

### **2014 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir**

“A selection of the finest barrels of the vintage. Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. The nose opens quickly to reveal aromas of purple berries and sous-bois. Exquisitely balanced and unctuous on the palate, with nicely ripened flavors of black cherry and boysenberry. Very polished, with seamless tannins, and a thread of dried herbs that adds a savory note.” **92 Points: Outstanding**

-Rusty Gaffney, December 2016

### *The Tasting Panel*

“Bright and silky with juicy cherry and notes of earth and spice; savory and balanced, long and lush.”

### **90 Points: Outstanding**

-Anthony Dias Blue, February 2017

### *The Daily Meal*

“Toward a Burgundy style — lean with fruit that pops out, and with some piquancy.”

-Roger Morris, February 2017

### *Restaurant Wine*

“Two excellent Carmel Valley Pinot Noirs. The Estate Reserve is a supple and somewhat richer wine with excellent flavor and depth, good balance, and a long finish, tasting of plum, clove, cherry, red currant, vanilla, and cedar. Can be aged further.” **4+ Points: Excellent**

-Ronn Wiegand, December 2016

### *Capital Gazette*

"This is a smooth textured, delicious pinot noir from Carmel Valley, Monterey County. Ripe cherry fruit with a good dose of spice."

-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, February 2017

## 2013 ALBATROSS RIDGE ESTATE RESERVE PINOT NOIR

### *Wine Enthusiast*

"**From an amazing vineyard** set at 1,200 feet with ocean views across the Carmel Valley, this bottling shows soft plum and strawberry fruit along with wild thyme, wet slate, a touch of smoke and purple-flower essence. A lively mouthfeel presents flavors of red plum, wild forest berries, chipped slate and sandalwood on a medium-light body." **93 Points: Excellent; Highly recommended**

-Matt Kettmann, November 2016

### *WineSpeed*

#### **"Wine of the Week"**

"Some wines just *make* you want to drink them. You're powerless to resist. That's the case with this delicious small-production pinot noir grown just seven miles inland from the cold Pacific Ocean, on the rugged mountain ridges above Carmel. **Superbly elegant**, the wine is vivid and pure tasting, with waves of sophisticated earthy flavors. **If you like your pinots to be exquisite, intriguing, and artisanal, this is for you.**" **95 Points**

-Karen MacNeil, June 2016

### *Wine Review Online*

"This is a true reserve bottling, evidenced by the selection of only 15 of 80 barrels, all of which were tasted blind over a dozen times. That's what I call work! The cool climate is on display, with a lighter styled mix of cranberry, cherry, strawberry, spice, dusty earth and sea spray aromas and flavors. Give this some unwinding time in a decanter before serving alongside an herb driven dish. Contains clones 777, Pommard, 115 and 828." **94 Points**

-Rich Cook, August 2016

### *Decanter*

"An extraordinary surge in the quality of California Pinot Noir has caused Karen MacNeil to re-examine everything she thought she knew about one of the world's most celebrated grapes."

#### **"MacNeil's baker's dozen to try"**

#### **2013 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir**

"Check out this alcohol – just 12.7%. Yet there's nothing attenuated here. Some wines just make you want to drink them, and that's the case with this **delicious** small-production Pinot Noir grown just 11km inland from the cold Pacific Ocean, on the rugged mountain ridges above the town of Carmel. **Superbly elegant**, the wine is vivid and pure-tasting, with waves of sophisticated, intriguing, earthy flavors. Drink 2016-2030."

#### **93 Points: Highly recommended**

-Karen MacNeil, September 2016

### *IntoWine.com*

#### **"50 California Central Coast Wines You Should Be Drinking Right Now"**

"Using clones of 777, Pommard, 115 and 828, this Pinot Noir hailing from the Carmel Valley in Monterey County, at elevations of 1,200 feet redefines its neighbor on the backside of the hills the Santa Lucia Highlands. The Carmel Valley is beginning to hit its stride and with this Pinot you'll find classic nuances of strawberry, cola, cedar and raspberry, black berry soften the palette with a more lush and viscous expression of Pinot. This is that delicate, seductive iteration of Pinot that you crave, coming from an unlikely spot."

-Michael Cervin, July 2016

### ***Wine Review Online***

“Albatross Ridge, a producer that has, sadly, been under my radar, hit the bull’s eye with this Pinot Noir. It’s a **near magical combination** of smoky savory notes with ripe black fruit nuances. Its ‘not just fruit’ character makes it seductive and charming – and keeps you coming back for more. **Each sip reveals new delights.** Juicy acidity keeps it fresh and amplifies the flavors. A modest 12.7% stated alcohol reinforces the concept that grapes needn’t be super ripe to deliver flavor.” **93 Points**

-Michael Apstein, July 2016

### ***Newsday***

“Pinot hunters will go for the **2013 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir**, a balanced and slightly earthy production from Carmel County, Monterey Valley.”

-Peter Gianotti, June 2016

### ***PinotFile***

“Moderately light cherry red color in the glass. Enticing marriage of dark red cherries, baking spices and sandalwood on the nose. Light to mid weight flavors of red cherry, strawberry and cranberry presented in a delicate, charming style with a slightly tart and saline-infused acid frame. Nicely balanced with sandy tannins and a finish replete with cherry and blood orange flavors.” **90 Points: Outstanding; approaching the best**

-Rusty Gaffney, June 2016

### ***The Press Democrat***

#### **“Tasty Alternatives”**

“This is a layered pinot that’s crisp and tangy. Notes of cranberry, rhubarb, cherry, mineral and spice. A touch earthy. Lovely.” **★★★★**

-Peg Melnik, September 2016

### ***Edible Monterey Bay/WineOhTV***

#### **“Albatross Ridge: Wines That Soar”**

“Albatross Ridge vineyard, replete with limestone and shale and reminiscent of Burgundy, keeps some pretty toney company. Located at the top of Laureles Grade, at the southwestern edge of Carmel Valley, it neighbors the vaunted Diamond T Vineyard owned by Robb Talbott...The diatomaceous soils and cool maritime winds are ideal for growing truly Burgundian style Chardonnay...Pinot finds a natural home here as well, yielding boundlessly energetic aromatics that tend towards red, not black....Hawley would be proud of the free-flying wines his great grandson is making, proving once more the incredible endurance and power of the albatross.”

#### **2013 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir**

“This is a big boy wine, brooding and earthy, with flint, forest floor, mushroom and crab apple on the nose. The color hints at its robust character, filled with cheery cherry, cigar, red plum, cranberry, cinnamon, nutmeg, red currant and mocha, ending with a flourish of flint and citron. This has plenty of stuffing to age for decades.”

#### **93 Points**

-Laura Ness, January 2016

### ***Santa Cruz Sentinel***

#### **“Family finds its destiny in wine: Pinot noir, chardonnay soar at Albatross Ridge”**

“Albatross Ridge winery, a family-run vineyard on the slopes above Carmel Valley, specializing in chardonnay and pinot noir.

Garrett holds back on releasing the wines for a year and a half, letting them develop in the bottle. The result is Cuvee Vivienne, which is fresh, open and exudes red-fruit flavors, and the **2013 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir**, which has more structure and flavors of blackberry and spice.”

-Stacey Vreeken, August 2016

*The Colorado Springs Gazette*

**“Lively Wines from California's Central Coast”**

“As with the North Coast, most of the best sites are characterized by proximity to the Pacific Ocean and are impacted by the associated cooling breezes (and sometimes fog), leading to long growing seasons that encourage optimum ripeness with powerful, fresh acidity, yet notable elegance.

Being closer to the ocean and those strong, cold winds, there are fewer such prime sites in Monterey's Carmel Valley. Albatross Ridge has found a really good one with coveted limestone soils only 7 miles from the ocean. The extreme conditions, including steep slopes, yield sophisticated expressions of pinot noir, such as the **2013 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir** with its bright fruit and mineral qualities.”

-Rich Mauro, November 2016

## **2012 ALBATROSS RIDGE ESTATE RESERVE PINOT NOIR**

*Wine Review Online*

“A big earthy nose! Damp earth and mushroom are forward over black cherry and brown spice. On the palate, great acidity brightens things and pushes the cherry and spice up over the earthy character, without covering it entirely. **This is a wow wine** if you like a dense, earthy style. **Albatross Ridge is a new player to watch!**”

**93 Points**

-Rich Cook, December 2015

*San Francisco Chronicle*

**“Albatross Ridge winery finds deep meaning in coastal site”**

“The warm days and cool nights coax complexity and minerality from Pinot and Chardonnay given long hang times by the Pacific 7 miles away — and **buzz among soulful sommeliers and wine lovers** seeking out grape juice different from the big, fruity, traditional California style...Garrett gets geeky as we ride around the estate's 244 acres with glasses of beautiful 2012 Estate Pinot blended from the top 12 barrels of the vintage...Some of the town's most progressive sommeliers are among those who savor the lean Pinots and Chardonnays over bigger, oakier alternatives...Sierra Mar manager and sommelier Sarah Kabat-Marcy elaborates. “The Pinots are elegant and complex. Both are refreshing expressions of our local terroir. The plus is knowing Garrett and his wife, Cassia, are truly devoted to their craft.”

-Mark Anderson, September 2015

*Wine Enthusiast*

“From a **promising** new project, the nose of this wine is linear and focused, with black raspberry, black licorice, cola, wet sagebrush and rain-on-slate scents. The tactile acidity once sipped creates a fascinating soft buzz on the tongue, with flavors of dried mint, brisk raspberry and cherry tomato. Camphor and eucalyptus add intrigue on the finish.” **91 Points: Excellent; Highly recommended**

-Matt Kettmann, June 2016

*The Daily Meal*

**“13 American Red Wines Great for Holiday Sharing”**

“Warm, plump cherry flavors that are fruit-forward, although not over the top — truly a generous wine.”

-Roger Morris, December 2015

*The Tasting Panel*

“Smooth, ripe and juicy with savory red cherry and spice; meaty, long and balanced.” **90 Points: Outstanding**

-Anthony Dias Blue, February 2016

*Wine Review Online*

“Balances deeply-concentrated, dark fruit with a firm structure of tannin and seems built to age.”

-Mary Ewing-Mulligan, January 2016

### ***PinotFile***

“Moderately dark reddish purple color in the glass. A tug of oak currently spearheads this mid weight plus wine offering aromas and flavors of blackberry, black grape, cassis, spice and black tea. The fine grain tannins and acidity are well balanced and the silky texture is très Pinot.” **90-91 Points: Outstanding**

-Rusty Gaffney, January 2016

### ***The Detroit News***

“This Estate Reserve Pinot is made from a selection of the winery’s 12 best barrels from 2012. It’s a bigger wine than the Vivienne — it has more weight, more alcohol. It’s an earthy wine, with intense cherry, pomegranate, cola and brown cooking spice flavors with a note of old-fashioned hard Christmas candy in the aromas. **The whole package is bright and well-balanced.**”

-Sandra Silfven, January 2016

### ***Capital Gazette***

“Just seven miles from the Pacific Ocean and Carmel-by-the-Sea, this Monterey County producer takes advantage of a cool climate to extract maximum fruit and balance in his pinot noirs. This reserve has ripe sweet cherry fruit flavors and a hint of spice.”

-Tom Marquardt and Patrick Darr, February 2016

### ***D Magazine***

“Here are a few stellar Pinot Noir wines to enjoy.”

#### **2012 Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir**

“Albatross Ridge grows their aromatic Pinot Noir for their Albatross Ridge Estate Reserve Pinot Noir from vineyards sitting at 1250 feet above sea level in Carmel Valley, Monterey County. From select barrels, each chosen based on their superior quality in a blind tasting, the small production wine balanced acidity and freshness with ripe red fruit and subtle earthiness.”

-Hayley Hamilton Cogill, August 2016