

# OCCIDENTAL

## 2020 Freestone-Occidental

### : 57HG'C: 'BCH9

Produced entirely from estate-fruit from Occidental's coastal vineyards

Vineyards are Certified Sustainable

All Occidental vineyards are grafted with proprietary *massale* selections developed over three decades by Steve Kistler

Native yeast fermentation

Native ML fermentation

Made from only free-run juice; Occidental does not own a press

Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered with a minimum level of SO2

### TASTING NOTES

The 2020 Freestone-Occidental offers a superb balance of bright, primary red fruits and saline elements

It conveys outstanding energy, precision and lift in the mouth and finishes vibrant and long with beautifully sculpted tannins. Its modest alcohol (13.3%) makes this wine a perfect complement to any meal

It is delicious now and will develop nicely in bottle

### VINEYARD DETAILS

Vineyards: Bodega Headlands, Bodega Ridge

Proprietary *massale* selections

Yields: ~1.5 tons per acre in 2020

Rootstocks: Riparia Gloire, 101-14

Orientation: West/Southwest, on the first ridge from the Pacific Ocean

Soils: Sandy loam and gravelly soils over marine sediment and fossils

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Hand-harvested at night

Hand-sorted first as clusters, then as individual berries

Fermentation: No cold soak, native yeast fermentation, minimal punchdowns, open top 4-ton fermenters are drained after 18-23 days

Aged in 30% new Francois Freres barrels for 12 months, uncracked until moved to bottling tank

Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered

Alcohol: 13.3%

### 2020 Freestone-Occidental

There are outstanding pinot noirs to be had from the 2020 vintage. 2020 was an excellent growing season on the coast; dry and warm weather persisted through the summer. There seemed to be less marine influence than normal, i.e.: fewer wet, foggy mornings and more times when the sun made its appearance before midday - always a welcome sight. As a result, we saw less disease pressure in the vineyards, which meant there was less canopy management needed to keep the fruiting zone properly ventilated and all clusters healthy. The 2020 pinot noirs are bright, high-toned, saline infused wines that could only have come from our ridgetop vineyards.

The 2020 Freestone-Occidental wine shares the same winemaking techniques as our vineyard designated pinot noirs and approaches the quality of our best vineyard designates. One important reason for this is that each year, we are harvesting more fruit from our young Bodega Ridge Vineyard, which has nearly reached full production. Soon we will reach our goal of sourcing all the fruit for the Freestone-Occidental wine from our coastal Bodega Headlands and Bodega Ridge vineyards.

The 2020 Freestone-Occidental is finely-etched, and extremely high toned, finer boned than the fuller 2019 expression. Crystalline, bright, mouthwatering, with a salty mineral finish, the 2020 Freestone-Occidental evokes juicy red/purple berries and a near perfect balance of finesse and energy.

# OCCIDENTAL

## 2019 Occidental Station Vineyard

### : 57HG C: BCH9

Vine age of over twenty years

All Occidental vineyards are grafted with proprietary *massale* selections developed over three decades

Fermented with 30% whole-cluster

Native yeast fermentation

Native ML fermentation

Made from only free-run juice; Occidental does not own a press

Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered with a minimum level of SO<sub>2</sub>

### TASTING NOTES

Purple fruits, cassis, and blueberry fruits. Soaring aromatics. Superb concentration and intensity on the palate without any dimension of weight

Bursting with energy. A strong sense of minerality infuses the purple flavors with terrific drive and tension

Finishes very long and silky with a rising violet perfume

### VINEYARD DETAILS

Vineyard: Planted in 1998 by Steve Kistler

Clonal material: Proprietary *massale* selections, including some Calera and Swan

Yields: 2 tons per acre in 2019

Rootstocks: 101-14, 420a

Orientation: North/South

Soils: Goldridge, iron-rich sandstone soils mixed with stony pebbles

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Hand-harvested at night

Hand-sorted first as clusters, then as individual berries

Fermentation: No cold soak, native yeast fermentation, minimal punchdowns, open top 4-ton fermenters are drained after 18-22 days

Aged in 30% new Francois Freres barrels for 12 months, unracked until moved to bottling tank

Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered

Alcohol: 13.5%

### 2019 Occidental Station Vineyard

The 2019 Occidental Station Vineyard is a brilliant example of energy and concentration. Tension between minerality and fruit.

Growing conditions were very mild again in 2019. After a wet spring, the summer months were cooler than normal and these mild, slow ripening conditions lasted until mid-September when our vineyards reached the early edge of ripeness and we began to pick. Occidental Station Vineyard is always the first site we pick each harvest. For the next ten days, temperatures remained below normal and we picked at a comfortable pace. This allowed us to process fewer tons each day, maximizing the percentage of intact, whole berries in our fermenters and keeping the juicing of the berries during de-stemming to a minimum. This set the stage for a very gradual start to fermentation.

We believe this encourages the production of high-toned, red-fruited, lacy and extremely vivid aromatics and flavors, which are the signature of our coastal vineyards.

# OCCIDENTAL

## 2017 Bodega Headlands Vineyard 'Cuvée Elizabeth'

### : 57HG'C: BCH9

Vine age of over twenty years, Steve Kistler has produced pinot noir from this vineyard since 2004

Planted with 20-acres of pinot noir

Vineyard is Certified Sustainable

All Occidental vineyards are grafted with proprietary *massale* selections developed over three decades

Native yeast fermentation

Native ML fermentation

Made from only free-run juice; Occidental does not own a press

Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered with a minimum level of SO2

### TASTING NOTES

High-pitched aromas of wild strawberries, raspberry, and crushed flowers.

A crystalline wine that offers a nearly perfect balance of crunchy red fruits and oyster shell minerality.

Silky, perfumed, and stunningly beautiful; there is something ethereal about the nose. A wine with tremendous concentration that remains remarkably light on its feet.

Finishes with great energy, definition, and floral intensity. - Steve Kistler

### VINEYARD DETAILS

Vineyard: Planted in 1999 by Steve Kistler

Clonal material: Proprietary *massale* selections

Yields: 1.5 tons per acre in 2017

Rootstock: 101-14, 420a

Orientation: West/Southwest, on first ridge facing the Pacific Ocean

Soils: Goldridge, sandy loam soils over marine sediment and fossils

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Hand-harvested at night

Hand-sorted first as clusters, then as individual berries

Fermentation: No cold soak, native yeast fermentation, minimal punchdowns, open top 4-ton fermenters are drained after 18-21 days

Aged in 30% new Francois Freres barrels for 12 months, unracked until moved to bottling tank

Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered

Alcohol: 13.5%

### 2017 Bodega Headlands Vineyard 'Cuvée Elizabeth'

The 2017 Bodega Headlands Vineyard 'Cuvée Elizabeth' is a finely-etched and ethereal wine.

In 2017, the growing season was cooler than normal during the summer months of June, July, and early August. Throughout the summer, our vineyards benefited from these mild, slow-ripening conditions, even though they presented challenges for us.

Conditions changed in the final days of August when unusually warm temperatures accelerated ripening and our pinot noir vineyards soon reached what we call "the early edge of ripeness" - that first sign that the picking window is beginning to open. Ruben Molinar, our vineyard manager for over thirty years, worked tirelessly along with his crew to harvest all our pinot noir on Bodega Headlands and Bodega Ridge, 85 acres of vineyard, in just four nights. The results of their efforts are these remarkable pinot noirs like the Cuvée Elizabeth - full of energy and intensity.

### 577@5A

"The 2017 Pinot Noir Bodega Headlands Cuvée Elizabeth is a very pretty and expressive wine. Bright floral notes and red-toned fruits grace this supple, racy Pinot from Occidental. Hints of Asian spice and blood orange add pretty, exotic overtones. The 2017 was done with fully destemmed fruit, but it has a very attractive savory quality. This is such a classy and restrained Pinot, but there is plenty of density and weight as well. I can't wait to see how it ages."

95 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, January 2020