



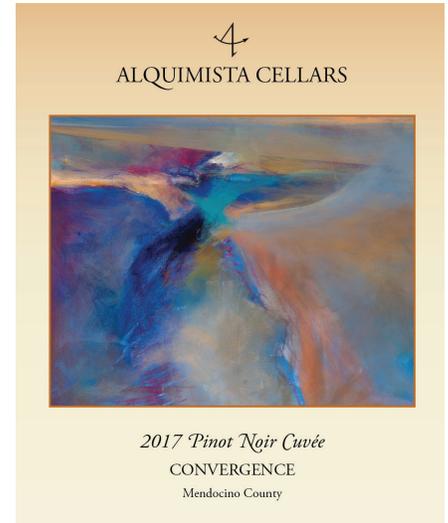
ALQUIMISTA CELLARS

2017 Convergence Pinot Noir Cuvée - Mendocino County

The 2017 vintage is defined by one major event: wildfire. We picked the majority of this blend well into October, with only the Haiku being harvested in early September. The other two vineyards, Manchester Ridge and Oppenlander, were unaffected by any smoke taint, with cool breezes pushing inland off of the ocean to protect the ripening fruit and enhance unique terrior.

Before the fires, the harvest was kicked off by a record heat spell the first weekend of September. The vines made it well into October due to the high-altitude as well as ocean coolness and picked between 23 and 25 Brix, quite ripe for our coastal Mendo vineyards. Due to the warm fall weather, flavors tended more towards berry but with great extract and tannin content due to the very small yields of less than 2 tons/acre. This tiny crop was driven more by very small berry size than by cluster counts, with average cluster size for all 3 vineyards weighing in at less than 75% of average vintage measurements. Acid levels moderated, beginning the season quite high and then coming into balance in the last 6 weeks of the season from September into mid-October.

The wines were aged in 90% older French oak, having been used 1-3X, with 10% new barrels. The wines were sent to barrel just before the fermentations finished and kept on the yeast lees for 17 months before being bottled filtered but unfined. We sterile filtered as, this being a blend wine of 3 vineyards all with natural fermentation, there was a risk that the party would start in the bottle rather than in your mouth!



Label artwork by Mandy Bankson

Technical Data

- **Fermentation:** All native
- **Clones:** Dijons 114/155/777, Swan, Pommard
- **Aging:** 17 months in 90% neutral oak barrels.
- **Current technical information for 148 cases of this classic Russian River wine:**
 - **pH:** 3.49
 - **TA:** 6.89
 - **Alcohol:** 13.98% by volume
 - **Residual Sugar:** 0.24 g/L
 - **Appellation:** Mendocino County
 - **California Retail Price:** \$58/btl