

MERRIMAN'S

KAPALUA

WINES BY THE GLASS

Apr 25, 2023

RED

Occidental, Pinot Noir 'Freestone-Occidental', Sonoma Coast, California, 2021 \$36/gls, \$144/btl



"While everyone knows of Steve Kistler's remarkable chardonnays, I believe his pinot noirs will ultimately prove even more historic."
– Robert Parker, Jr.

Occidental is Steve Kistler's pinot noir project with a singular focus: to make world-class pinot noir from unique sites on the headlands in the Freestone-Occidental area of the Sonoma Coast. Steve founded Occidental as a small family brand in 2011, and built a state-of-the-art winery overlooking the Pacific Ocean; the 85 acres of vineyards represent the westernmost edge of where pinot noir can be successfully grown in California.

- **Grape(s) :**
100% estate-grown pinot noir; all vineyards are certified sustainable.
- **Winemaking:**
Grapes harvested at night for optimum acidity. Malolactic fermentation in stainless steel tanks. Only free-run juice is used for the wine; Occidental does not own a press and sells its remaining must to neighboring wineries. The juice is transferred to French oak barrels (30% new) where it ages for a year before bottling.
- **Profile:**
Lithe, snazzy, and seductive. Brightly aromatic with inviting red fruit, brambly herbs, and lively acidity. For all its showiness, it finishes with precision and a savory mineral edge.
- **Pair With:**