



CLOS DE LA TECH

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

2017 Domaine Lois Louise **Twisty Ridge**

OVERVIEW

With caves tunneling deep into a vine-covered ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains and vineyards so steep they have to be farmed with a unique, specially-designed tractor moved by cables, Clos de la Tech is one of the most ambitious and innovative Pinot Noir producers in California. The winery was established in 1994 and continues to be operated by TJ Rodgers, founder and retired CEO of Cypress Semiconductor, and his wife, Valeta. Some of the highlights at Clos de la Tech include extreme growing conditions, high-altitude terrain, vine-by-vine farming, high-density planting (4,150 vines per acre), low yields, innovative equipment, gravity-flow winery, whole cluster fermentations with native yeast, and no filtration.

VINEYARD

Clos de la Tech's five Pinot Noirs come from three estate vineyards: Domaine du Docteur Rodgers, Domaine Valeta, and Domaine Lois Louise. Domaine Lois Louise is an extraordinarily steep 240-acre property (35 acres currently planted) high atop the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA. It sits above the fog line and is buffeted by strong maritime winds. The "Twisty Ridge" block runs along the upper ridge line at 1,700 feet. The site features a thin layer of topsoil over fractured rock, and it planted to Dijon clones.

WINE MAKING

The fruit was hand harvested between September 26th and October 5th, 2017. After a 5 to 10 day cold soak, the grapes underwent traditional vinification methods including foot crushing, whole cluster fermentation with native yeast, malolactic fermentation on lees and gravity transfer (no pumping). The wine was aged in Francois Frères barrels (Bertrange Forest) for 19 months and bottled unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

The thin (18-inch) clay-loam topsoil and cold windy weather of Twisty Ridge produce our "big red wine." Ronn Wiegand: "An excellent wine (****). Intense, youthful, and both richly fruity (plum, blackberry) and herbal-peppery (green herbs, black pepper), with light oakiness. The palate is supple and concentrated. This is a rich, somewhat bigger and higher tannin wine with years of development ahead. It is lightly oaky, with a very persistent aftertaste. Likely at its best in 2024-2028."

STATISTICS

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Vineyard: Domaine Lois Louise Twisty Ridge block

Barrel Aging: 19 months in Francois Frères French oak barrels (82% new)

pH: 3.58

TA: 0.63g

Alcohol: 13.8

Production: 254 cases