



2018 LILO PINOT NOIR

The Lilo Vineyard, occupying a south-facing hillside above the town of Aptos, is a startlingly magical and bewitching site. Its incline describes a steep gradient rising almost 150 feet from bottom to top. The severity of the slope - and the dynamic tension one feels there - contrasted against the serene beauty of Monterey Bay visible just below, suggest a compelling analogy for the wine itself. Happily, no application of the Dark Arts - winemaking or otherwise - is required to achieve this complexity. Any alchemy performed is through the terrestrial agency of sandstone, schist and shale.

When we first visited Lilo on a cold, misty, blustery day in late summer 2011, we were immediately struck by this exceptional site for Pinot Noir. We harvested all of .99 tons from 4.5 acres that year, as spring rains at flowering often conspire against delivering an economical crop here, sitting as it does on the edge of viticultural viability. However, when April and May cooperate, as they did in 2018, Lilo produces perhaps the most completely classical wine in BirichinoLand, enjoying the virtue of developing an intense and prismatic palate and perfume at low levels of potential alcohol, often marked by the spectral perfume of sandalwood or cypress incense. -Alex and John

Harvest: September 29, 2018
Composition: Pinot Noir 100%
Appellation: Santa Cruz Mountains
Alc: 13.0% **TA:** 5.8g/l **pH:** 3.74
Case Production: 155cs

