# EROE 2024 PINOT NOIR EL PASO DE ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

# THE VINEYARD

Héroe wines are noted for their soft and friendly appeal; our Pinot Noir is a special offering and represents our vineyard in a beautiful way. Planted in 2003, this vineyard is remarkable, planted in the rocky and steep slopes in our valley floor. We grow two clones and this wine is a perfect blend of the two. 2024 Héroe Pinot Noir is a small production wine totaling only 630 cases produced. In fact, 2024 was the smallest yield in our vineyard since 2011. Frost greatly impacted the vines production; we lost more than 50% of the crop during a freeze event on April 6 th 2024. The vineyard went from yielding potentially 4 tons per acre to just 1 ton per acre. The yield was light but quality was high; the crop came a full month earlier in 2024 compared to 2023 as multiple heat waves helped to ripen the fruit.

## THE WINEMAKING

We harvested the Pinot Noir in two lots, separating the fruit from Clone 115 & 777. The grapes we destemmed (not crushed) and settled in a tank for 24 hours at a chilling 45 degrees. We let the tanks naturally warm to 55 before adding yeast and kicking off the fermentation procedure. We tank fermented the grapes at a maximum of 70 degrees. I selected yeast 3001, a remarkable yeast for its ability to trap inherent dark color, increase the length of mouthfeel and heighten the fruit's natural aromas of berries and floral attributes. I noticed right away that Clone 777 featured more strawberry and cherry notes, while Clone 115 contained more herbal whiffs of rose flower, and darker notes of crushed stone and peppery spice. We barrel aged the wine in neutral 500L and 225L barrels for a total 10 months. We did not use any new barrels in the process. Barrels were topped and tasted every 6 weeks.

### THE TASTE

Héroe Pinot Noir wines are made ready-to-drink; subtle, smooth and easy with a pleasing long finish. This wine has a delicate soft touch and complex aromas that change as you sip. It's dynamic, deep, with aromas of bramble raspberry, cherry, dried rose petals, and roasted walnut. The bouquet is dominated by sweet plum, strawberry- rhubarb pie, raisin cake and some orange zest. The taste of ripe strawberry slowly converges to dark chocolate, interwoven with dried herbs, and a lingering finish. An herbal and floral mouthwatering finish makes this wine super tasty. I love pairing it with grilled pork on seasoned braised carrots and zucchini. 2024 produced a fuller Pinot Noir with BIG flavors and appeal. Drink this wine through 2032.

## THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

pH: 3.60 TA: 0.68 RS: 0.85 ALC: 14.8%

Total Production: 630 cases (750ml Bottles)

Bottling Date: August 13, 2025

