

Pinot Noir Press



LAURENT WINES

An exciting newcomer to the California wine scene, Laurent Wines, a brand of Metzker Family Estates, shows immediate promise with its exquisitely made single-vineyard wines.



Part of the Metzker Family Estates winery, Laurent Wines is an ultra boutique brand that pays homage to the French influence of winemaking. The new label was started in 2014 and includes a limited portfolio of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Rose of Syrah, all produced from esteemed vineyards in the Sonoma County wine growing region. The inaugural releases came out less than a year ago, but the Metzker family is already gaining an impressive following for their award-winning Laurent wines.

shape and Metzker Family Estates would become a reality.

Mike Metzker still resides in Houston, working as a genetic researcher and serving as an adjunct professor at the Baylor College of Medicine. His son, Cameron Metzker, serves as the director of business development for the family winery and recently relocated from Texas to help run the business and oversee the sales and marketing division. Cameron is joined by award-winning winemaker Melissa Apter Castro, who shares the family's vision for exquisite handcrafted wines. Together, the Metzker family and Melissa Apter Castro proudly presented the inaugural fleet of Metzker Family Estate and Laurent Wines in the spring of 2017.



It all started in the early 1980's when Mike Metzker was a young college student at UC Davis. His studies were in genetics, but he spent his free time roaming the Napa and Sonoma valleys with friends on the weekends. He became friends with several vintners and developed a passion for wine and an appreciation for the scientific side of winemaking. After a tenured professorship at Baylor College of Medicine, Mike became involved with several biotech start-ups focused on next-generation sequencing and genomic medicine technologies. He married his wife Sherry and settled with his family in Houston, Texas, but the crisp air of California wine country always felt like home. It wasn't until two decades later that Mike's dream of starting a winery would finally take

The mission at Metzker Family Estates is to produce exceptional single-vineyard wines that are true to their terroir. Sourcing premium fruit from award-winning vineyards has been paramount to the winery's quick success and they look forward to adding a Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon to the lineup in 2018.

The Metzker and Laurent wines are typically only available through their mailing list, so it is a pleasure to be able to offer one of their newest offerings to our Pinot Noir Wine Club members. Enjoy!





ABOUT THE WINEMAKER

A California Bay area native, Melissa Apter Castro is the newly appointed winemaker for Metzker Family Estates and their boutique line-up of Laurent Wines. Melissa grew up in a wine-loving family that routinely visited California's Napa and Sonoma wine growing regions. While studying at UC Davis, Melissa spent a semester abroad in Tuscany and the experience solidified her desire to become a winemaker. She graduated from the university's esteemed enology program in 2011 and immediately gained experience working in the Barossa Valley for the 2012 harvest. Upon returning to California, Melissa began working for the Antinori Family's Antica Estate in Napa Valley where she earned a reputation for producing fine Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs and Cabernet Sauvignons. In 2016, she joined the Metzker Family Estates team and was also named one of **Napa's Seven Most Exciting Winemakers** by *NapaValley.com*.

LAURENT 2015 PINOT NOIR

Fort Ross Vineyard, Sonoma Coast

The Laurent 2015 Pinot Noir was produced from the Fort Ross Vineyard in the newly designated Fort Ross Seaview AVA within the Sonoma Coast appellation, in an area known for its "coastal cool" climate. This wine offers a bright ruby color with notes of wild strawberries, cherries, and wet earth. The tannins are sweet yet fine-grained and provide a nice balance to the bright, crisp flavors and vibrant acidity. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy now until 2023.

92 POINTS

– *Wine Enthusiast magazine*

92 POINTS

– *The Tasting Panel*



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