

# 2019 The Tanaka Project Pinot Noir

## Santa Cruz Mountains

### Talking Points for Presentation

Our dear friend Ron Tanaka, an artist, poet and scholar, came into our lives in 1983. Often finding inspiration for his works in our vineyards and wines, Ron loved our Pinot Noirs best. He created two sets of poetry directly tied to Mount Eden, *The Mount Eden Poems* and *Mountain Wines; A Girl Grows Up on Mount Eden*, amongst the many pieces he wrote.

Sadly, Ron took his own life in 2007, leaving us heartbroken.

We decided to honor our friend by renaming one of our Pinot Noir vineyards, *Tanaka* and producing this special wine as a tribute to him. This vineyard site was one of Ron's favorite spots on the property and has a sense of *terroir* distinct from our other estate Pinot Noir vineyards: Only three barrels (approximately 75 cases) of this single-vineyard Pinot Noir are produced.

We are so proud to announce that over \$10,000 has been donated to date.

With our newest *Tanaka Project* Release, the 2019 vintage, twenty-five percent of the purchase price will again be donated to a worthy ally supporting mental health.

**Winemakers notes at release:** Released September 10, 2022

The 2019 Tanaka Project Pinot Noir is the second bottling dedicated to our friend Ron Tanaka.

In contrast to our Estate Pinot, which is a blend of all four of our Pinot Noir vineyard blocks, this wine comes from just one, the now named Tanaka Vineyard. We select three special barrels and bottle them unfiltered.

Quite youthful, the beguiling aromas are just starting to emerge. True to our mountain terroir, jasmine, sandalwood, and raspberry scents come through. Fresh on the palate, elegant and balanced, with soft red fruit flavors and, again, complex notes of jasmine and sandalwood.

Lay this down for at least five years to allow the wines to achieve its greatness.

### Ron Tanaka Bio:

**Ronald Phillip Tanaka** (1944–2007) Was a Japanese-American artist, poet, editor and educator. He called himself a *Sansei* (a third-generation Japanese-American), born in the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona in 1944, during the internment of those of Japanese heritage for the duration of World War II.

He attended Pomona College, Claremont and the University of California, Berkeley where he took an interdisciplinary doctorate in Renaissance British Literature and the philosophy of language. Tanaka taught English at the California State University, Sacramento.

His cultural heritage was reflected in his artistic expression and he had an uncanny way of blending the spirit of East and West, using the intellectual tradition of both cultures in the thematic content of his work.

He was the single parent of two girls, Shinobu and Yoi.



### Winemaking and Technical Data

**Rain Total 2019 Season:** 52 inches

**Yield:** 1.5 tons per acre

**Harvest Dates:** September 4th hand harvested

**Brix:** 23.5°

**pH:** 3.50

**TA:** 7.8

**Fermentation:** Native ferments, 33% whole cluster

**Barrels:** 100% barrel aged in new and one-year-old French Oak

**Aging:** 11 months

**Bottled:** August 2020, No fining or filtration

**Alcohol:** 13.5%

**Cases produced:** 75 cases-750ml

### The Tanaka Vineyard:

Acreage: 1.67

Average Age of Vines: 10 years

Clones: Mount Eden

Training: Vertical shoot positioning

Spacing: 3 X 8

Soils: Franciscan Shale