

## B. KOSUGE | BYRON KOSUGE

2015 CHARDONNAY	SONOMA COAST	13.0%	342 cs.	\$35	88
2016 GAMAY NOIR	CARNEROS	14.1%	100 cs.	\$25	92
2015 PINOT NOIR	SONOMA COAST	13.2%	045 cs.	\$30	90
2015 PINOT NOIR, <i>EL GALPÓN</i>	CARNEROS	12.8%	050 cs.	\$30	92
2015 PINOT NOIR, <i>THE SHOP</i>	CARNEROS	13.4%	378 cs.	\$35	92
2015 PINOT NOIR, <i>THE HABITAT</i>	SONOMA COAST	13.5%	050 cs.	\$45	96
2015 PINOT NOIR, HIRSCH VINEYARD	SONOMA COAST	12.5%	050 cs.	\$56	94

[www.bkosugewines.com](http://www.bkosugewines.com)

For someone who has made wines for 30 years, Byron Kosuge is likely not a name that jumps out when you think of Northern California wines. Joining Sainsbury with fellow UC Davis grads Richard Ward and David Graves in 1985 to make their portfolio of Pinot Noir before launching his eponymous brand in 2004. His workman-like, evolved approach to not letting his style be dictated by strictly Burgundian practices has consistently produced approachable, affordable wines that may well bypass the attention of most with a pedestrian approach to seeking out California wines. All of these offerings make you think about what is in the glass. They have long been admired among my writings. ■

**2015 CHARDONNAY** The nose is a lemon crème and chalky vanilla-flecked white peach and notes of mineral. The palate is a clean green apple and peach with vibrant acidity in the core that becomes more subtle and dry leading to the finish. Drink 2018 – 2022. **2016 GAMAY NOIR** The nose is a tart camphor and herbal cassis with plenty of piquant red fruit, cherry and raspberry. Beautiful stuff... The palate is lean spice and vibrant red berry fruit and plenty of underlying focus and power. Excellent saturation on finish. Drink 2018 – 2025. **2015 PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST** Aromatically gorgeous with floral lilac, dried cherry, hibiscus and sticky plum. Well-focused and balanced blue fruit with firm underlying loamy black fruit core coupled with sleek fresh acidity. Drink 2018 – 2022. **2015 PINOT NOIR, *EL GALPÓN*** The nose is beautifully aromatic floral and spicy bramble berry. The palate is a supple dark berry with velvet-like tobacco, loam undertones finishing with a silky raspberry and spice. Drink 2018 – 2024. **2015 PINOT NOIR, *THE SHOP*** The nose is a firm and spiced red cherry and faint of blossom and nutmeg. The palate is a ripe strawberry on entry with a lean core of subtle acidity and mineral filling out with well –integrated silky red stone fruit. Drink 2018- 2024. **2015 PINOT NOIR, *THE HABITAT*** Shows a fresh and focused nose glowing with aromatics of herb, tomato, earth and rhubarb. The palate is a lively, fresh and intense rhubarb on entry with clean red fruit vibrancy, notes of green herb and loam. An exceptionally well put together example of California Pinot Noir. Aged in 100% used French Oak and sourced from Paul and Kathryn Sloan's Small Vines' Barlow Homestead vineyard. Get it if you can. Drink 2018 – 2027. **2015 PINOT NOIR, HIRSCH VINEYARD** A nose of red cherry, carbon with note of vanilla and blossoms. The plate is lovely precise, red and blue fruit with notes of florals and herbs, gravel and spice. Subtle textural inputs make it a fascinating example of north coast pinot noir. Drink 2018 – 2024.

