



RIVERBENCH

2007 Harvest

In the month leading up to harvest, weather was largely favorable with the exception of thunderstorms and high humidity on August 29th and September 22nd. Other than these storms, we had many warm days and expected to be busy harvesting by mid-September. The crop load in both the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir ended up being about 20 percent less than an average year, which also tends to accelerate ripening, but we did not significantly kick up harvest until late September. The lighter yields did not affect quality, and in fact we saw very clean and balanced fruit flavors at harvest. We began harvesting Pinot Noir on the first of October and completed harvest on October 9th. The condensed harvest season was challenging for our crews and equipment, but the operations were completed safely and feedback from the winery was very positive. Overall, 2007 is recognized as one of California's best recent vintage thanks to opportunity for even ripening, no rot or mildew, and pleasant weather.



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RIVERBENCH

2007 MESA PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown and Bottled

Santa Maria Valley



Composition

100% Pinot Noir

Harvest

October 5, 2007

Coopers

36% new oak

Bottled

September 1, 2008

Acidity

.64 g/100mL

pH

3.71

Alcohol

14.3%

Production

459 cases

Winemakers Notes

There's a special section, deep in the vineyard, that's been affectionately termed "The Mesa" for many years now. The fruit from these vines is remarkably different Pinot Noir; there is a liveliness that refreshes the palate and stirs the senses. One taste of these grapes and it was obvious that we needed to try this section on its own. In the summer of 2008, the barrel samples revealed we had something special on our hands, and now that it's had some time to age in the bottle, we've decided to introduce it to you. This wine is surprisingly soft and feminine on the palate, yet its elegance and brightness are balanced by a lift on the palate and a more assertive finish. In other words, this is no wimpy wine. Earth tones match the red fruit flavors, and the oak plays subtly in the background. Try this one of a kind representation of Riverbench with cranberry glazed Cornish game hens or beef Wellington.