



RIVERBENCH

2011 Harvest

The 2011 growing season was one of the most difficult on record with very cool temperatures throughout the summer and into the fall. We never truly got the heat spike we usually see in September, and temperatures remained mild throughout the fall and winter. Additionally, we experienced very dry conditions through the end of the year, with rainfalls much lower than usual. However, low yields at harvest truly summarized the season. Our grape tonnage was, on average, about 30 percent lower than typical years, and most of our neighbors saw similar conditions. As a result, many wineries were shorted on fruit because there was not much to sell. We began harvesting grapes for our sparkling wines on August 26 and our Pinot Noir on September 13, which in retrospect was fairly normal timing. We completed harvest on October 19; this was a greatly abbreviated harvest period for us. The light yields, especially in the Chardonnay and younger blocks of Pinot Noir, made harvesting move swiftly though the acreage. The wines themselves experienced a natural cold soak at 50 degrees and fermentation began on its own.

The wines never got above ninety degrees during fermentation, and barrel temperatures never exceeded the mid 70's.



We are a SIP™ certified business (Sustainable in Practice) www.sipthegoodlife.com



RIVERBENCH

2011 POMMARD PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown and Bottled
Santa Maria Valley



Composition

100% Pinot Noir, Pommard Clone

Harvest

September 13, 2011

Cooperage

9 months in French Oak, 33% New

Coopers

Seguin Moreau, Roberts and Sons

Bottled

August 22, 2012

Acidity

.51 g/100mL

pH

3.75

Alcohol

13.3%

Production

148 cases

Suggested Retail Price

\$46

Winemakers Notes

90 points, *The Wine Advocate*, September 2013

He's smooth. Confident. Just a little domineering. Wins every game of poker, spies on warlords and smugglers, and remains cool and calm with the ubiquitous drink in hand. Fast cars and sophisticated gadgets may make him irresistible, but he stays polite yet aloof. The name's Pommard, Pommard Pinot Noir, and this new addition to our lineup is dense, velvety and mysterious. The nose holds the fragrance of currants and bruléed red fruits with just a tiny hint of rose petal, violet, and custom made cigarettes. These follow through on a dark and brooding palate which exhibits flavors of blueberry pie and cherry. Strong tannins give this wine its *Double O* status, so make it your mission to enjoy it as often as possible.