



RIVERBENCH

2016 MESA PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley



COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Martini Clone
HARVEST	September 24, 26; 2016
COOPERAGE	70% New French Oak
COOPERS	Remond, Sirugue
ACIDITY	0.66 g/100ml
PH	3.53
ALCOHOL	14.5%
BOTTLED	August 10, 2017
PRODUCTION	398 cases
PRICE	\$48

90

Antonio Galloni
September 2018

WINEMAKERS NOTES

There's a special section in Riverbench vineyard that's been affectionately termed "The Mesa" for many years now. This four acre block is one of the oldest at Riverbench, and is planted with Martini clone on its own rootstock. Year after year, the fruit from these vines makes remarkably different Pinot Noir; there is a liveliness that refreshes the palate and stirs the senses. Lush and feminine textures seduce at the first sip, then give way to a strong, confident finish of earthy tones and rich red strawberries and cranberries, with just a touch of spice. Beef Bourguignon would be stunning with this, but you could just as successfully pair it with a well seasoned tri-tip, some buttery garlic bread, and a lazy Saturday afternoon.

2016 HARVEST

The 2016 vintage was a return to our historical cool spring and moderate summer temperatures. The grapes for sparkling wine came in starting August 9th. Pinot Noir began trickling in mid-August. The majority of the ranch ripened in mid-September and the Chardonnay came in the first two weeks of October, finishing October 14th. Balanced Flavors and physiological ripeness occurred at higher Brix than we have had for the last several vintages. The cooler temperatures allowed for longer hang time. Quality and character for Vintage 2016 is beautiful. Malolactic fermentations occurred simultaneously with primary fermentations. The very cold winter has delayed the completion of both primary and secondary fermentations. Our winter bottling was delayed to allow the wines to complete fermentations. Following harvest we welcomed an abundance of much needed rain which should be favorable to the coming 2017 harvest.

