



RIVERBENCH

## 2017 CLONE 115 PINOT NOIR

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*



**COMPOSITION** 100% Pinot Noir, Clone 115

**HARVEST** August 25, 2017

**COOPERAGE** 32% New French Oak

**COOPERS** TW Boswell

**ACIDITY** 0.62 g/100ml

**PH** 3.76

**ALCOHOL** 13.5%

**BOTTLED** August 3, 2018

**PRODUCTION** 398 cases

**PRICE** \$46

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

If wine wore clothes, this one would be head to toe in Chanel. Timeless and classic, this bottling embodies all that is elegant and refined. The nose is graceful with delicate floral notes of sweet violet and rose hips mingled with a pop of blackberry. The palate is quiet but full of gorgeous hyacinth, a bit of bacon and dried black currant. As it spends a little time in the glass, it evolves, keeping you guessing with every sip. On the finish, subtle flavors of tea leaves, boysenberry, and maybe a little orange peel and Schezuan pepper entice the senses and keep things interesting. Whether you're entertaining at home or at the White House, this is one that will impress the guests. Try it with mushroom lasagna or simple grilled steak.

### 2017 HARVEST

The 2017 growing season proved to be a continuation of another drought year. The winter brought some needed rainfall, early bud break and spring frost coupled with the dry and warm summer ensured another early harvest. The marine layer had minimal influence, which is unusual for the Santa Maria Valley. What we didn't see early in the season was the light yields across most parts of the ranch and varieties. Pinot Noir had small berries and clusters, with no wings or shoulders to bolster cluster weights. Berry Set following Bloom was very good and we were happy with great quality going to the winery. Sparkling started the first week of August with our Pinot Meunier and we were into full swing the last week of the month through most of September. A heavy thunderstorm on September 3 was followed by more thunder, rain and hail on September 10. Exciting light show and rain amounts per hour left little sleep for vineyard and winery workers to follow.

