



RIVERBENCH



2017 MESA PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Martini Clone
HARVEST	September 7, 8, 2017
COOPERAGE	30% New French Oak
COOPERS	Saury, Montigillard
ACIDITY	0.62 g/100ml
PH	3.7
ALCOHOL	12%
BOTTLED	August 21, 2018
PRODUCTION	459 cases
PRICE	\$48

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.

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.

