



# RIVERBENCH



## 2017 PINOT MEUNIER

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Meunier, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	August 7, 2017
TIRAGE	September 8, 2018
DOSAGE	None
DISGORGEMENT	November 13, 2019
ACIDITY	0.73 g/100ml
PH	3.09
ALCOHOL	11.88%
PRODUCTION	94 cases
PRICE	\$68

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

Every once in a while, something comes along that disrupts the routine and brings a feeling of unexpected bliss. A stranger in line at the market tells you a funny joke. A barista passes you your coffee, free of charge. A friend unexpectedly shares her bounty of organic lemons. In 2014, we at Riverbench decided to fully invest in developing our grower sparkling wine program by planting Pinot Meunier. This rare grape is famous in Champagne, France, but has yet to make itself known in California; we are, in fact, the first to grow it for sparkling wine here in Santa Barbara County. We jumped in with both feet and took a chance, and this Pinot Meunier sparkling wine is lighting up our world. The grape itself has quite a backbone, forming a sparkling wine with structure and complexity. Bright citrus and ripe blackberry plays softly in the background behind a pretty puff of pillowy yeastiness and a touch of cream. Some might get an exciting and unique note of rye on the finish. Either way, this bottling stands for something that puts a smile on your face.

### 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.

