



RIVERBENCH

## 2017 TRIBUTARY PINOT NOIR

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*



COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Clone 667
HARVEST	August 22, 2017
COOPERAGE	100% New French Oak
COOPERS	Francois Freres
ACIDITY	0.6 g/100ml
PH	3.69
ALCOHOL	13%
BOTTLED	August 4, 2018
PRODUCTION	99 cases
PRICE	\$95

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

What does the word terroir really mean? To those of us who love Riverbench, it's about the care we put into our farming and our people, and the unique qualities that this care gives the wine. Our tributary Pinot Noir, made only in extremely limited quantities in exceptional vintages, is a tribute to our practices and the sensory experience of drinking an amazing bottle of wine. Try finding the essence of our terroir: walk out into the vineyard and hear the sounds of birds and the vines rustling in the cool Santa Maria breeze. Look at the vineyard stretching before you as far as the eye can see, and the sandy, rocky soils in which our vines flourish. Take a handful of that dirt and hold the history of our vineyard in your hands; smell in it the scent of the river, floods, minerals and maybe a hint of Santa Maria strawberry. We used the most meticulous vineyard techniques, clean, minimal winemaking and native yeasts to create our most brilliant wine to date which showcases the true essence of Riverbench: taste it, and all of a sudden it will all just make sense.

### 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.

