



# RIVERBENCH



## 2018 BRUT ROSÉ

*Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley*

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Méthode Champenoise
HARVEST	September 22, 2018
DOSAGE	None
ACIDITY	0.63 g/100mL
PH	3.4
ABV	11.5%
BOTTLED	August 22, 2019
PRODUCTION	1306 cases
PRICE	\$48

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**Wine Enthusiast**  
December 2022

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

In color psychology, pink is a sign of hope and compassion. It inspires warm, calming and comforting feelings, making the viewer feel that all is well in the world. Therefore, consider our Brut Rosé therapy in a bottle. Lightly perfumed with aromas of orange blossom and a hint of rosewater, this blush pink wine boasts noticeably fine bubbles. In the mouth, flavors of meringue, marzipan and raspberries are made all the more intriguing by a soft sensuality. A few glasses might leave a little pink in your cheeks; whether it's from lust or indulgence is for you to decide.

### 2018 HARVEST

The 2018 vintage returned us to our historical average for bud break and rainfall, followed by a short but significant frost season. We saw some of the lowest winter temperatures in years and had nearly two weeks of sprinklers running to protect the young shoot growth. The cool weather elongated the flowering season and resulted in variable ripening and berry uniformity across varieties and clones. Classically, "May Grey" led to "June Gloom" and though there were many complaints from the locals, our winemaker, Clarissa Nagy, was happy for the return of our marine layer. Cool days and even cooler nights allowed for moderate respiration during the day and minimal to no respiration at night. Translation: high acids and great ageability. Our first grapes for sparkling were harvested the latter half of August and first of September, which felt late in comparison to the past three years. The oddity this year was a very cool September and October, which greatly extended the season to get the final grapes ripe. The overall result was higher-than-expected yields with fruit of exceptional quality. The combination is rare and was well received. Color, concentration and phenolic ripeness were at a maximum. The intense aromas and flavors from 2018 will make this vintage one to lay down for years to come.

