



RIVERBENCH

2018 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley



COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Clones: 667, 777, Pommard
HARVEST	September 11, 2018
COOPERAGE	30% New French Oak
COOPERS	Boutes, Seguin Moreau
ACIDITY	0.61 g/100ml
PH	3.75
ALCOHOL	13.8%
BOTTLED	July 26, 2019
PRODUCTION	650 cases
PRICE	\$32

WINEMAKERS NOTES

This Pinot Noir is our flagship; a way to really showcase Riverbench Vineyard. Each year, we carefully select the clones and barrel lots that will make up this bottling so that it combines the best qualities of all different parts of the property. After nine months in barrel to develop amazing complexity and deliciousness, the wine is fresh and bright, and very typical for the Santa Maria Valley. The palate boasts juicy red fruit flavors that meld nicely with a hint of our signature Riverbench smoke and clove. Try it with duck breast or anything that involves mushrooms.

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.

