



RIVERBENCH



## 2019 POMMARD PINOT NOIR

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Pommard Clone
HARVEST	September 21, 23; 2019
COOPERAGE	40% New French Oak
COOPERS	Francois Frères
ACIDITY	0.53 g/100ml
PH	3.78
ALCOHOL	14.2%
BOTTLED	July 21, 2020
PRODUCTION	411 cases
PRICE	\$52

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Antonio Galloni  
*October 2021*

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

He's smooth. Confident. Just a little domineering. Wins every game of poker, spies on warlords and smugglers, and remains cool and calm with the ubiquitous drink in hand. Fast cars and sophisticated gadgets may make him irresistible, but he stays polite yet aloof. The name's Pommard, Pommard Pinot Noir, and this addition to our lineup is dense, velvety and mysterious. The nose holds the fragrance of currants and bruléed red fruits with just a tiny hint of rose petal, violet, and custom made cigarettes. These follow through on a dark and brooding palate which exhibits flavors of blueberry pie and cherry. Strong tannins give this wine its Double 0 status, so make it your mission to enjoy it as often as possible.

### 2019 HARVEST

The old mantra of "slow and steady" reverberated across the 2019 vintage which started with abundant winter precipitation followed by a classically cool summer. The rains we received over winter were 5" above normal, priming our vines for an auspicious budburst in mid-March. Warm spring temperatures accelerated rapid flowering and therefore consistent fruit set, the like of which we had not seen in years. Unusual May showers gave our vineyard crew a formidable challenge of thwarting powdery mildew and botrytis on the vines. We are happy to say they rose to the occasion and kept our fruit some of the cleanest in years despite the late rain and foggy summer to follow. The first grapes for our sparkling wine, the Pinot Meunier, came into the winery on the first of September, a little later than usual. The rest of our still wine grapes followed suit and by the start of October, 95% of the ranch was harvested. The Pinot Noir clones exhibited dark color and rich extraction from the lower-than-expected yields. The real star of 2019 however, was our 15 acres of old vine Chardonnay. The clusters verged on perfection with clean, balanced, concentrated fruit. The cool growing season showcased primary notes of granny smith apple and riverbank minerality that will continue to develop in bottle "slow and steady" long into the future.

