



# RIVERBENCH



## 2019 TRIBUTARY PINOT NOIR

*Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley*

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Martini Clone
HARVEST	September 23, 2019
COOPERAGE	100% New French Oak
COOPERS	Francois Freres
ACIDITY	T.A. 0.51 g/100mL
PH	3.91
ABV	14.1%
BOTTLED	July 23, 2020
PRODUCTION	23 cases
PRICE	\$95

### WINEMAKER'S 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.

### 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.

