



RIVERBENCH



2020 CLONE 115 PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Clone 115
HARVEST	August 31, September 3; 2019
COOPERAGE	41% New French Oak
COOPERS	TW Boswell
ACIDITY	0.56 g/100ml
PH	3.59
ALCOHOL	12.6%
BOTTLED	August 2021
PRODUCTION	453 cases
PRICE	\$48

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Wine Enthusiast
December 2022

WINEMAKERS NOTES

If wine wore clothes, this one would be head to toe in Chanel. Timeless and classic, this bottling embodies all that is elegant and refined. The nose is graceful with delicate floral notes of sweet violet and rose hips mingled with a pop of blackberry. The palate is quiet but full of gorgeous hyacinth, a bit of bacon and dried black currant. As it spends a little time in the glass, it evolves, keeping you guessing with every sip. On the finish, subtle flavors of tea leaves, boysenberry, and maybe a little orange peel and Schezuan pepper entice the senses and keep things interesting. Whether you're entertaining at home or at the White House, this is one that will impress the guests. Try it with mushroom lasagna or simple grilled steak.

2020 HARVEST

Amidst high tensions in the weather and the world at large, the 2020 vintage ushered in high quality and clean fruit reminiscent of Santa Maria's celebrated cool climate. The year began with a dry winter that dribbled out less than half the usual rainfall and incited an early budburst. Hearty shoots managed to survive the windy spring and the nighttime frost alarms. Summer started out quiet and cool until August when high temperatures and humidity whipped up spectacular lightning shows and a few hefty downpours, testing our fungal-resistant pruning practices. When the turbulent storms subsided, they were replaced by 10 days of smoky haze as major fires broke out to the north and the south. By the grace of our valley topography, our vines were buffered by the worst of the smoke and flames with no taint detected on our early grape pulls. Harvest commenced with clean picks of sparkling Pinot Meunier on August 20th. Timing was steady and calculated. Safe from the challenges of weather, smoke, and global pandemics, the grapes in the winery unfolded elegantly. Our Pinot Noirs show incredible color with particularly luscious tannins from this year's small berries while the Chardonnays will age well into the future with bright acids and popping citrus aromas. While challenging, 2020's adversities built wines with character, concentration, and complexity that gave us cause to celebrate.

