



RIVERBENCH



2020 MOUNT EDEN PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Mount Eden Clone
HARVEST	August 26, September 11, 14; 2020
COOPERAGE	40% New French Oak
COOPERS	Francois Frères
ACIDITY	0.6 g/100ml
PH	3.67
ALCOHOL	13.9%
BOTTLED	August 2021
PRODUCTION	196 cases
PRICE	\$65

WINEMAKERS NOTES

If any clone of Pinot Noir embraces the long histories of both Californian and Burgundian wine growing, it's the Mount Eden clone. This particular Pinot Noir clone was reportedly brought across the Atlantic Ocean from one of Louis Latour's Burgundian vineyards in the late 1800's, and is therefore one of the oldest clones in California. This combination of new and old worlds relates on a micro-level at Riverbench Vineyard as well. A newer planting from 2015, this first vintage of Mount Eden clone Pinot Noir varies a bit from the wines made from our older vines; unique flavors of blueberries and leather are more pronounced. The wine is full of elegance and finesse, with beautiful structure and succinct flavors. This wine will be glorious with a few years of bottle age, and is a lovely pairing now with crispy duck or Delmonico 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.

