



RIVERBENCH



2020 POMMARD PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Pommard Clone
HARVEST	September 7, 10, 11; 2020
COOPERAGE	33% New French Oak
COOPERS	Francois Frères
ACIDITY	0.53 g/100ml
PH	3.79
ALCOHOL	14.1%
BOTTLED	August 2021
PRODUCTION	438 cases
PRICE	\$52

92

Antonio Galloni
June 2022

95

Wine Enthusiast
December 2022, Editor's Choice

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.

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.

