



RIVERBENCH



2020 ROSÉ

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir
CLONES	667, 115
HARVEST	August 26, 31; 2020
COOPERAGE	100% Neutral Oak
ACIDITY	0.55 g/100ml
PH	3.58
ALCOHOL	13%
BOTTLED	April 15, 2021
PRODUCTION	96 cases
PRICE	\$25

WINEMAKERS NOTES

We love rosé. It's pink, it's fun and it's flirtatious. And it's usually the answer when you're asking "What the heck do I pair with this?" Whole clusters of dark and deliciously ripened Pinot Noir were pressed gently, which means the wine is very light in color, but very high in quality. Diverse and complex flavors of rose petal, strawberry, and orange blossom make it a little more serious, but if we're being perfectly honest, we taste a hint of jolly rancher and white gummy bear on the finish (no pretension here). Either way, we'd all loudly agree it's the best rosé we've ever made if we could only stop drinking it long enough.

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.

