



RIVERBENCH



2022 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Clones; Mount Eden, Pommard, 777
HARVEST	September 15, 2022
COOPERAGE	30% New French Oak
COOPERS	Seguin Moreau
ACIDITY	T.A. 0.6 g/100mL
PH	3.77
ABV	13.0%
BOTTLED	September 21, 2023
PRODUCTION	300 cases
PRICE	\$38

90

Antonio Galloni
July 2024

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

This Pinot Noir is our flagship; a way to really showcase Riverbench Vineyard. Each year, we carefully select the clones and barrel lots that will make up this bottling so that it combines the best qualities of all different parts of the property. After nine months in barrel to develop amazing complexity and deliciousness, the wine is fresh and bright, and very typical for the Santa Maria Valley. The palate boasts juicy red fruit flavors that meld nicely with a hint of our signature Riverbench smoke and clove. Try it with duck breast or anything that involves mushrooms.

2022 HARVEST

The 2022 growing season was filled with extreme highs and extreme lows. Dozens of frost events stretched from mid-February to early May, with little to no crop loss observed. Some sluggish growth in March and early April was somewhat remedied with four days in the 90s during the second week of April. The frosty spring gave way to historically average ripening conditions with veraison beginning around July 4th. Cluster counts resulted in 30-40% lighter than estimated yields in some varieties. In addition, a record-setting heat wave struck right in the middle of harvest causing sugar accumulation to spike, resulting in 3 weeks of maturation in less than 8 days. The heat gave way to rainfall, resulting in 2" of rain right in the middle of harvest. Fruit quality held up well with the heat and rain, but Brix and acids were not in their normal proportions.

