RIVERBENCH

2022 MOUNT EDEN PINOT NOIR
Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	*100% Pinot Noir, Mount Eden Clone*
HARVEST	*September 19, 2022*
COOPERAGE	*30% New French Oak*
COOPERS	*Francois Frères*
ACIDITY	*T.A. 0.58 g/100mL*
PH	*3.71*
ABV	*13.1%*
BOTTLED	*September 23, 2023*
PRODUCTION	*310 cases*
PRICE	*$68*

WINEMAKER'S 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.

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 varietals. 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.

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