



RIVERBENCH



2023 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Clones; Mount Eden, Pommard
HARVEST	September 23, 2023
COOPERAGE	30% New French Oak
COOPERS	Seguin Moreau
ACIDITY	T.A. 0.58 g/100mL
PH	3.59
ABV	13.0%
BOTTLED	August 20, 2024
PRODUCTION	300 cases
PRICE	\$38

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.

2023 HARVEST

Vintage 2023 started off with above-average rainfall. Our vineyard received nearly 2.5 ft of rainfall from December to March, almost double the historical average. A large storm that passed through the area in early January, dropped 7+ inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period. Bud break was observed on February 27th, two weeks later than 2022 and one week later than 2021. The theme of "late" remained constant throughout the growing season. Bloom, set, and veraison were all 10-14 days later than the historical average. This was due in part to cooler spring and summer temperatures. The crop load was heavier than estimated in Pinot Noir and Chardonnay which also led to a longer ripening period. Our harvest period lasted from September 1st- October 18th. September weather provided steady ripening and great weather for our harvest crews. Seed and skin development outpaced Brix levels in most varieties which allowed us to harvest at slightly lower Brix than we do some years while maintaining quality.