



RIVERBENCH



2024 MOUNT EDEN PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled, Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Mount Eden Clone
HARVEST	September 7, 2024
COOPERAGE	40% New French Oak
COOPERS	François Frères
ACIDITY	T.A. 0.54 g/100mL
PH	3.74
ABV	13.2%
BOTTLED	August 26, 2025
PRODUCTION	300 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, grilled steak or salmon.

2024 HARVEST

The 2024 vintage was a year of historically low yields, with exceptional quality driven by a cool spring, extended ripening, and low disease pressure in the summer. Bud break began during the last week of February, but a cool spring kept vine growth on a slow pace. Multiple early May frost events occurred, but no damage was noted to the vines or developing crop. June was another mild month putting vine development further behind, but had no affect on bloom or set. During the third week of July the first signs of veraison were observed, a full 2 weeks behind historical average. The first grapes harvested for Riverbench were Wente Clone Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier on August 26th, both of which were for sparkling wine. Yields were 20-40% lighter than historical average. The viticultural explanation was that the heavy crop cluster differentiation in the buds resulted in lower yields. Because of this, harvest was compact, lasting a little over 30 days which is 30% shorter than historical average. The last grapes for Riverbench were harvested on October 3rd.

