



RIVERBENCH

## 2019 SWAN CLONE PINOT NOIR

*Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley*



COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir
CLONES	Swan Clone
HARVEST	September 23, 2019
COOPERAGE	100% Neutral Oak
ACIDITY	0.56 g/100ml
PH	3.6
ALCOHOL	13.5%
BOTTLED	August 12, 2020
PRODUCTION	25 cases
PRICE	\$48

### WINEMAKERS NOTES

Shrouded in mystery, the Swan clone of Pinot Noir's origins are a thing of stories and legends. The original vine cuttings, allegedly removed from the famous Domaine de la Romanée-Conti in Burgundy, haven't been perfectly traced. What we do know is this: the clone produces an exceptionally elegant, gracious, and floral wine, and it's awfully satisfying to drink. Gorgeous raspberry and a dash of maple are bright and fresh on the palate, and the nose is full of roses and violets. Enigmatic and flirtatious, ironic and a little magical, we're pretty proud of this little masterpiece.

### 2019 HARVEST

The old mantra of "slow and steady" reverberated across the 2019 vintage which started with abundant winter precipitation followed by a classically cool summer. The rains we received over winter were 5" above normal, priming our vines for an auspicious budburst in mid-March. Warm spring temperatures accelerated rapid flowering and therefore consistent fruit set, the like of which we had not seen in years. Unusual May showers gave our vineyard crew a formidable challenge of thwarting powdery mildew and botrytis on the vines. We are happy to say they rose to the occasion and kept our fruit some of the cleanest in years despite the late rain and foggy summer to follow. The first grapes for our sparkling wine, the Pinot Meunier, came into the winery on the first of September, a little later than usual. The rest of our still wine grapes followed suit and by the start of October, 95% of the ranch was harvested. The Pinot Noir clones exhibited dark color and rich extraction from the lower-than-expected yields. The real star of 2019 however, was our 15 acres of old vine Chardonnay. The clusters verged on perfection with clean, balanced, concentrated fruit. The cool growing season showcased primary notes of granny smith apple and riverbank minerality that will continue to develop in bottle "slow and steady" long into the future.

