



RIVERBENCH



2020 SWAN CLONE PINOT NOIR

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Pinot Noir, Swan Clone
HARVEST	September 14, 2020
COOPERAGE	50% New French Oak
COOPERS	Sirugue
ACIDITY	0.52 g/100ml
PH	3.76
ALCOHOL	13.8%
BOTTLED	August 2021
PRODUCTION	117 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.

2020 HARVEST

Amidst high tensions in the weather and the world at large, the 2020 vintage ushered in high quality and clean fruit reminiscent of Santa Maria's celebrated cool climate. The year began with a dry winter that dribbled out less than half the usual rainfall and incited an early budburst. Hearty shoots managed to survive the windy spring and the nighttime frost alarms. Summer started out quiet and cool until August when high temperatures and humidity whipped up spectacular lightning shows and a few hefty downpours, testing our fungal-resistant pruning practices. When the turbulent storms subsided, they were replaced by 10 days of smoky haze as major fires broke out to the north and the south. By the grace of our valley topography, our vines were buffered by the worst of the smoke and flames with no taint detected on our early grape pulls. Harvest commenced with clean picks of sparkling Pinot Meunier on August 20th. Timing was steady and calculated. Safe from the challenges of weather, smoke, and global pandemics, the grapes in the winery unfolded elegantly. Our Pinot Noirs show incredible color with particularly luscious tannins from this year's small berries while the Chardonnays will age well into the future with bright acids and popping citrus aromas. While challenging, 2020's adversities built wines with character, concentration, and complexity that gave us cause to celebrate.

