



*Elizabeth Spencer*TM

2006 Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast

Appellation: Sonoma Coast
Varietal Blend: 100% Pinot Noir
Production: 50 Barrels
Winemakers: Matthew Rorick and Spencer Graham

Winemaker's Notes

Deep magenta in color. Aromas of Bing cherry, black plum, incense, clove, lavender and laurel leap out from the glass in an exuberant bouquet. Plush and luxuriant on the palate, the wine offers round, integrated tannins, complex and full jammy fruit, and a crisp, clean finish that begs another taste.

Winemaking

Our 2006 Pinot Noir was hand-harvested on the 5th of September. Upon arrival at the winery, grapes were hand-sorted and placed into small open-top fermenters with a small amount of whole-cluster fruit added for aromatic complexity. Following a week-long cold soak, the tanks gradually warmed and native yeasts were allowed to begin fermentation. Each day, as we tasted the developing wine and evaluated flavor extraction, intensity and mouth feel, we were able to determine our punch-down schedule. Temperatures were kept on the low side of average during fermentation in order to preserve the classic Pinot Noir aromas. Following fermentation, the wine was drained into a selection of small French oak barrels for the enhancement of oak aging. The result is a wine that has all the elements of a classic example of this variety.

Vineyards

Our Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir grapes are sourced from a vineyard located just north of San Pablo Bay on Lakeville Highway outside of Petaluma in southern Sonoma County. Cooling influences from the nearby San Pablo and San Francisco Bays to converge with those from the Pacific Coast to create a particularly cool microclimate which allows for a stellar expression of the variety.

Vintage

The 2006 growing season in northern California was characterized by two distinct features; a spring with more than usual rain and a slightly cooler than normal summer. As a result, the grapes had an ideally paced development cycle with even ripening throughout. By assiduous management of crop levels and vine growth, we were able to guide our Pinot Noir to optimum ripeness with ideal maturation of tannins along with complex and forward aromas and flavors. As a result, this Pinot Noir is a true expression of the variety, featuring clean, pure flavors, ample structure and body, and balancing natural acidity.