

Proprietor Selected  
SPECIAL CUVÉE

*Elizabeth Spencer*

PINOT NOIR  
SONOMA COAST

Vintage 2008

40 barrels

Produced & Bottled by Elizabeth Spencer Wines

APPELLATION: SONOMA COAST  
VARIETAL BLEND: 100% PINOT NOIR  
WINEMAKER: SPENCER GRAHAM  
RELEASE DATE: SPRING 2010

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Deep dark garnet in color with brilliant purple highlights. Seductive aromas of black cherry, Oolong tea, wild berry and slightly brambly fruit with spicy aromas of nutmeg and cardamom as the highlights of a complex and elegant nose. Our 2008 Pinot Noir is ripe, plush and full-bodied with the highly desirable structure and texture that consistently provide this Sonoma Coast offering with a refined and compelling presence on the palate. Offering ripe Bing cherry, rich plum and pomegranate flavors along with lively natural acidity on the palate with well-integrated oak and tannins, this wine has a delightfully long finish.

#### WINEMAKING

Our 2008 Pinot Noir was harvested by hand during the first week of September. Upon arrival at the winery, the grapes were hand-sorted and placed into small open-top fermentation tanks 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 planned our punch-down schedule. Temperatures were kept on the low side of average during fermentation in order to preserve classic Pinot Noir aromas. Following fermentation, the wine was drained into a selection of small 60-gallon French oak barrels. The result is a ripe and expressive wine that is a classic example of this variety.

#### VINEYARDS

Our Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir vineyard is located just north of San Pablo Bay on Lakeville Highway outside of Petaluma in southern Sonoma County. Characteristically, this area benefits from very moderate temperatures due to the influences of both the Pacific Ocean and the nearby bay which converge to create a particularly cool microclimate allowing for a superb expression of this vinifera grape variety.

#### VINTAGE

The 2008 growing season was an arduous one for grape growers in northern California. A long dry winter prompted vines to bud much earlier than normal, leaving them vulnerable to damaging frosts. Luckily, our Pinot Noir vineyard escaped the brunt of the cold weather; however our crop was significantly smaller in than normal. The vines suffered no further vagaries of weather, and happily we were able to harvest our Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir grapes with a near-perfect balance of ripeness and structure during the first week of September.

#### CELLARING RECOMMENDATIONS

Clearly showing very well right now, this Pinot Noir boasts rich, full flavors with excellent tannin levels and the solid structure to suggest it will continue aging beautifully through 2014 when cellared at an average of 55 degrees.

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