



2008 PINOT NOIR Santa Barbara County

Appellation: Santa Maria Valley
Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

pH: 3.42
Alcohol by volume: 14.1 %
T.A.: 0.66 g / L
R.S.: 0.07 %
Malic Acid: 0.04 g / L

Produced and Bottled by:

Kenneth Volk Vineyards
5230 Tepusquet Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454
www.volkwines.com

Growing season

2008 was a very long and cool growing season which was greatly influenced by a moderate La Niña climate condition. With less than five inches of rain on our estate vineyard in Santa Maria, - nearly a third less than normal - 2008 was a dramatic drought year. The combination of low rainfall with the large crop of the prior year manifested itself in a light crop of small-berried clusters of Pinot Noir. Our Pinot Noir harvest began September 10 and completed in the first week of October. Our 2008 Santa Barbara County Pinot Noir is a blend of fruit from our neighboring vineyards: Bien Nacido, Sierra Madre, Garey, Riverbench, Julias and Solomon Hills.

In The Cellar

Following early morning hand-harvesting into half-ton macro bins the fruit was promptly delivered to our cellar door. Vineyard lots were destemmed with minimal crushing into small, open top fermentors. Each fermentor was layered with dry ice periodically during filling to chill the fruit down below 45° Fahrenheit, promoting a cold pre-fermentation soak. Following several days of cold maceration, the fermentors were inoculated with cultured yeast strains. The fermentors were punched down by hand two to four times daily and were pressed in our Hypac basket press prior to complete cap-fall with an average time on its skins of 12 days. Individual vineyard lots were barreled down into new to four-year-old Demptos, François Frères, and Seguin Moreau Burgundy cooperage as well as Hungarian cooperage of Trust and Budapest Kadar. This wine was aged for 22 months in barrel prior to preparation for bottling.

In The Glass

This deeply pigmented Pinot Noir has aromas of turned earth, strawberry, cherry, rhubarb and barrel spice. On the palate this medium-bodied wine has flavors of red fruits, black tea, Kola nut and five-spice. An extremely versatile wine, this Pinot Noir complements a wide range of cuisine; the earth tone character of this wine works well with dishes that include wild mushrooms and braised vegetables, or enjoy with Asian spice-rubbed ribs.