



WINEMAKER: Ken Brown

VINEYARD SOURCES: 54% *Garey Vineyard, Santa Maria Valley*; 23% *Clos Pepe Vineyard, 23% Rancho La Viña, Santa Rita Hills*. This wine combines fruit from three of Santa Barbara County's top Pinot Noir vineyards. Planted on a plateau in western Santa Maria Valley, the Garey Vineyard produces Pinot Noirs of great complexity with spice and earth tones. In the Santa Rita Hills, the highly regarded Clos Pepe Vineyard contributes intensely flavored clusters with a pure core of dark fruit expression. The newly planted Rancho La Viña is showing tremendous potential with its tiny berries, which produce a rich, dark color and intense black fruit flavors.

VINTAGE: The 2007 growing season began with a dry winter—rainfall totals were among the lowest in over 50 years. Very cold temperatures in January combined with a cool spring caused delays in vine development, pushing the growing cycle 2 to 3 weeks behind average. Clusters were small and loose with very small berries. This allowed more sunlight penetration for superb development of color, flavor and aromatics. Small berries and fewer clusters also translated into lower yields per acre. Crop size was down about 30%. Fruit from the Garey Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley was harvested on September 20 and 27. Grapes from the Santa Rita Hills ripened a bit later—Clos Pepe on October 2 and Rancho La Viña on October 10.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS: Pinot Noir clusters for this wine were hand sorted before being de-stemmed and gravity fed to fermenters. The must was immediately chilled for a pre-fermentation cold soak where the most beneficial extraction of color, aroma and flavor occurs. During fermentation, concentration was enhanced by gently punching down the cap several times per day. The wine aged 10 months in French oak barrels with 32% new French oak.

This wine offers lush fruit aromas on the nose and velvety richness on the palate. Fragrances of blackberry, dark wild cherry and rhubarb are accented by hints of cinnamon stick, vanilla and lightly toasted French oak. On the palate, the wine features dark cherry and plum flavors along with subtle fresh earth tones. A rich structure envelops the wine's pleasing acidity, resulting in a plush, well balanced texture and bright, lingering finish.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 6.2 g/l

pH: 3.47

Alcohol: 14.3%

Production: 378 cs.