



VINEYARD SOURCES: 45% *Garey Vineyard*, 10% *Nielson Vineyard (Santa Maria Valley)*; 36% *Clos Pepe Vineyard*, 9% *Rancho La Viña (Santa Rita Hills)*. This wine combines fruit from four top Pinot Noir vineyards in Santa Barbara County. Situated in western Santa Maria Valley, the Garey Vineyard produces Pinot Noirs of great complexity with spice and earth tones. Grapes from the nearby Nielson Vineyard are known for rich, fruit forward character and lush structure. Over in Santa Rita Hills, the highly regarded Clos Pepe Vineyard contributes intensely flavored grapes with a pure core of dark fruit expression and a touch of minerality. The exciting new Rancho La Viña property produces intensely colored Pinot Noir with wild blackberry and blueberry notes.

VINTAGE: The 2009 vintage began with cool temperatures in spring and early summer, but by late August, a series of warm days arrived, jumpstarting the harvest earlier than expected. Warm days alternated with cooler days, a pattern that allowed the grapes to fully develop with ideal color and character. After two years of exceptionally low crop yields, this year's harvest was back to more normal levels. Yields averaged 2.25 to 2.5 tons per acre and cluster size was relatively small. For the third year in a row, rainfall totals were below average, which helped control vine vigor, producing superb concentration and flavors in the grapes.

WINEMAKING: 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 11 months in French oak barrels with 35% new French oak.

TASTING NOTES: This wine showcases the remarkable synergy between Pinot Noir grown in Santa Rita Hills and Santa Maria Valley. Rich aromas of dark cherry and plum are accented by hints of black raspberry, cinnamon and vanilla. The wine is complex, yet has bright cherry and plum flavors, supported by well balanced, nicely rounded tannins. A rich mid-palate flows seamlessly to a silky finish. While the wine is drinking lovely now, it will continue to develop harmony and complexity with additional bottle age.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.2 g/l

pH: 3.71

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 514 cases