



VINEYARD SOURCE: *100% Clos Pepe Vineyard (Sta. Rita Hills)*. This family-run estate is a small jewel in the highly regarded Santa Rita Hills appellation with only 28 acres of vines (24 of which are planted to Pinot Noir). The vineyard is farmed with meticulous attention to detail, year-round hand labor and sustainable agriculture methods. The soils are low-vigor, sandy loam and are rich in calcareous shale. The block sourced for Ken Brown Pinot Noir is planted to the Pommard clone.

VINTAGE: Mother Nature set the stage for a challenging vintage in 2011 with a hard freeze in January and frost in April, causing damage to the buds and green tissue in certain vineyards. Spring and summer brought below average temperatures, which resulted in a long, cool growing season. This, combined with lower crop yields, fostered excellent development of depth and complexity in the fruit. A light rain event in early October was followed by warm, sunny days that gave the grapes the push they needed to reach full maturity. Grapes from Clos Pepe were harvested on October 12.

WINEMAKING: Pinot Noir clusters from the Clos Pepe Vineyard were hand sorted before being de-stemmed and 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. As soon as the wine reached dryness, it was pressed and transferred to 60-gallon French oak barrels where it aged for 17 months. About 38% of the barrels were new French oak. The wine was bottled on March 5, 2013.

TASTING NOTES: This wine displays beautiful finesse in the aromatics and flavors, evoking a true terroir-driven sense of place that is unmistakably Clos Pepe. The nose features medium dark berry fruit along with Clos Pepe's distinguishing touch of minerality and undercurrents of brown spice and subtle earth tones. Rich flavors of berry and truffle are accented by hints of black tea, spice and a delicate touch of toastiness from French oak. The wine is beautifully integrated, with a nice richness that carries all the way through to a refined, prolonged finish. While approachable and enjoyable upon release, this classic Pinot Noir will continue to develop in depth and complexity, aging gracefully for eight years or more.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.2 g/l

pH: 3.63

Alcohol: 14.7%

Production: 265 cases