



VINEYARD SOURCE: 100% *Clos Pepe Vineyard (Sta. Rita Hills)*. This celebrated vineyard is a small jewel in the highly regarded Sta. 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: 2013 is hailed as a near perfect vintage across the state of California, described as “early, even and excellent.” Harvest began about two weeks earlier than normal in Santa Barbara County and weather patterns were ideal—every week brought a warm up followed by a cool down in temperatures. This pattern allowed grapes to develop slowly and evenly, enabling winemakers to pick at perfect ripeness. A lack of rain during the harvest season also contributed to grape quality. Yields were slightly above normal due to a greater number of clusters on each vine, but berry size remained small. Grapes from Clos Pepe were harvested on September 25.

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 11 months. About 32% of the barrels were new French oak. The wine was bottled on September 4, 2014.

TASTING NOTES: This wine delivers the exquisite richness, aromatic intensity and complex flavor profile Clos Pepe Pinot Noir is known for. Aromas of Bing cherry, raspberry and fresh earth are complemented by nuances of black peppercorn, cinnamon, clove and a subtle stone component. Opulent flavors gracefully greet the palate with hints of black cherry, earth and a touch of coffee and baking spices on the finish. The wine is beautifully integrated, with velvety tannins, cool-climate acidity and refined texture all in balance. Silky and complex, this classic Pinot Noir culminates in a prolonged finish and will enjoy exceptional ageability.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.3 g/l

pH: 3.69

Alcohol: 14.7%

Production: 208 cases