



2017 PINOT NOIR

PUERTA DEL MAR

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

161 CASES PRODUCED

This Pinot Noir is subtle, enticing, and shows a powerful translucent redness in the glass. Those are generally year to year attributes of this Pinot; what's different in this 2017 bottling is that it incorporates a small percentage of whole clusters, something we've never explored with this site. That was somewhat risky, as this Pinot Noir is quite earthy to begin with, and stems can be sobering to fruit expression. Nonetheless, we were curious, so we fermented a small lot with whole clusters separately.

Ultimately, we blended that tiny lot in so that this bottling features 11% whole clusters. It was slightly odd while in tank before bottling, but we really liked what the stems contributed to the mouthfeel of the wine. While the delicacy of Puerta Del Mar is exactly what we like about this Pinot, the whole clusters lent some fine tannins that integrated beautifully.

The wine has evolved beautifully during its first year in bottle. The whole cluster greenery has mellowed into a sage-y aromatic gauze, showing plenty of site-typical scents of peat, cherries, citrus and exotic spice. The palate is full of minerals, cherry and strawberry, and shows a mouthwatering thread of plum skin. It's supple and gently salty (per usual for this Pinot), then the stems enhance the spicy clench and seem to lengthen the wine a bit, too. This 2017 bottling will continue to emerge over the next couple of years, and will hit 10 years in great stride.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARD Puerta Del Mar

LOCATION Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION Open top fermentation with 11% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 14 Months in French oak barrels, 43% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 161 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"A standout in the lineup, the 2017 Pinot Noir Puerta Del Mar Vineyard comes from a cold, coastal site and offers stunning strawberry and cherry fruits intermixed with hints of spice, stems, and peppery herbs. Medium-bodied, silky, and just beautifully textured and seamless, it's ideal for drinking anytime over the coming decade." - **94 Points, Jeb Dunnuck**

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