

2018 PINOT NOIR

PUERTA DEL MAR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Puerta Del Mar is a level six-acre vineyard that presents a heady intersection of benevolent climate and soils. The vineyard is adjacent to the Santa Ynez River's last bends before the ocean (even further west than the Sta. Rita Hills) and that influx of Pacific air up the riverbed makes for mild days here when it is warm just a short drive inland.

The site rests on the confluence of that river and Salsipuedes Creek, which drains the hillsides south of Sta. Rita Hills. The accumulative overlays of ancient floods make for a soil composition that weds those southern hillsides with all that's been ferried down the Santa Ynez River watershed, which begins just west of Ojai. These deep, gravelly Mocho soils are strewn with calcareous (chalky) rock, making the soil chemically similar (if not structurally) to the carbonate-rich soils of Burgundy.

And like much of Burgundy, this 2018 Pinot Noir is subtle, enticing, and shows a powerful translucent crimson in the glass. The power of fragrance is consuming, with ethereal scents of flowers, strawberries, black tea and chaparral herbs. It glides onto the palate with a supple profile of red stone fruits and rallies some nerve as it segues into racier notes of berries. The wine then fans out into a suave and saline texture dotted with notes of spice and woodsiness—just elegant as can be.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARD Puerta Del Mar

LOCATION Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION Open top fermentation with destemmed fruit

BARREL AGING 15 Months in French oak barrels, 25% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 273 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"Gorgeous raspberry and strawberry fruits as well as loads of floral nuances define the bouquet and it's an incredibly perfumed, complex, yet pretty and nuanced Pinot Noir. With medium-bodied richness, flawless tannins, and an elegant texture, it's certainly not a blockbuster but just perfectly put together. It's going to benefit from a year or two of bottle age and cruise for a decade in cold cellars." **95 Points**

Antonio Galloni's Vinous

"The 2018 Pinot Noir Puerta Del Mar is so precise, so beautiful. Here the lines are finely sketched, like a pencil drawing. Freshly cut flowers, mint, blood orange, pine and sage give the Puerta del Mar its distinctly bright aromatic profile. Medium in body and bursting with saline-infused energy, the Puerta del Mar is a gorgeous cool-climate Pinot. This is an especially fine edition." **94 Points**

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