



2021 PINOT NOIR

PUERTA DEL MAR

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

TASTING NOTE:

We love how Puerta Del Mar provides Pinot Noir with a unique kind of suppleness, marked by an unmistakably saline quality (possibly due to its coastal proximity). Puerta Del Mar also offers terrific aroma. This 2021 bottling lifted scents of peaty river rocks, strawberries, palo santo, black tea and bergamot. It's savory and enticing. The palate's all sweet red fruits with minerals and mushroomy umami in the finish. A bit of pretty French oak frames it all. The acidity is bright and there's ample chalky tannins, but also that inner suppleness and salinity of Puerta Del Mar. It's one of our favorite summertime reds; it's perfect with grilled salmon on a warm evening.

VINTAGE AND WINEMAKING:

2021 was pretty much a dream vintage for us, particularly with Pinot Noir. It finished ripening with perfectly cool, breezy and dry conditions. We harvested just over three tons and destemmed all of it. Puerta Del Mar is so savory already that we don't use any whole-clusters with this wine. After being inoculated with our house-cultured native yeast (derived from fruit picked during sampling), this was gently punched down early on in fermentation and pumped over later.

Like 2020, we opted to use no sulfites until just before bottling. That means we have to inoculate with yeast immediately to stay ahead of bacteria, so we have to skip a cold soak. Instead we round out extraction by leaving the wine on its skins for a few days after becoming dry. We aged this wine in French oak barrels (22% new) for 15 months, then bottled the wine unfiltered and unfinned with a minimal effective dose of sulfites.

VINEYARD:

For Pinot Noir, being so close to the ocean has a paradoxical effect. You'd think a marginal climate for ripening Pinot would make a sinewy high-acid feel. Instead, because the nighttime temperatures don't drop so low close to the ocean, you wind up with a softer profile of acidity. More of a gentle, caressing feel on the palate. With that and the salinity this site gives, this Pinot boasts a supple kind of delicacy that's totally beguiling.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARDS Puerta Del Mar

AVA Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION native yeast fermentation with destemmed fruit

BARREL AGING 15 months in 22% new French oak

TOTAL PRODUCTION 135 Cases

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THE
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