2022 PINOT NOIR PUERTA DEL MAR Santa Barbara County

TASTING NOTE:

In our lineup of Pinots Noirs, Puerta Del Mar consistently offers the most delicacy. There's a near-constant coastal breeze and marine layer traveling up the riverbed here, and that oceanic influence lends a combination of subtlety and finesse that's deliciously different from our sites in Sta. Rita Hills proper.

This 2022 Puerta Del Mar Pinot Noir pulls you in with its wild earthy perfume. Scents of white pepper, palo santo wood, peaty river rocks, and flowers all soar out of the glass, while a whiff of strawberry promises some sweet juiciness on the palate. The texture is substantial and weightless at once. You find a lithe entry with mushroomy minerality guiding vibrant red flavors of currant, strawberry and hibiscus, then the glossy middle segues into a round saline finish flecked with allspice. It's one of our favorite summertime reds; pair it up with grilled salmon on a warm evening and you've got something perfect.

VINTAGE AND WINEMAKING:

The 2022 vintage challenged us when September heat kicked in, much like '17 and '20 vintage but more persistent. Even with the relative coolness at Puerta Del Mar, we had to be extra vigilant about nailing the pick date, as warm nights rob the fruit of precious acidity. Fortunately we picked in time and captured the beautiful delicate essence of this vineyard.

The grapes for this wine (clone 115) were destemmed and then loaded into tanks, which we immediately inoculated with our house native yeast (cultured from grapes picked during sampling). We pumped the wine over twice daily until it was dry then left it on the skins for a few more days for further extraction. The wine aged on fine lees in French oak barrels (40% new) for 11 months, then was bottled after gentle fining but no filtration.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir
VINEYARDS Puerta Del Mar
AVA Santa Barbara County
ALCOHOL 13.0%
VINIFICATION native yeast fermentation with destemmed fruit
BARREL AGING 11 months in 40% new French oak
TOTAL PRODUCTION 109 Cases

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A BARBARA COUNTY Pinot Noir PUERTA DEL MAR

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