

Mount Eden Vineyards

Technical notes

2008 Estate Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains

Yield: 2 tons per acre
Harvest: August 29th-30th
Numbers @ Harvest: 23.8° Brix
3.4 pH
7.5 grams acidity

Barrel Regimen - French Burgundy 50% new; 50% 1 year
Bottling - September 2009

969 cases produced

Winemakers notes at release: Fall 2010

All of our estate vineyards are non-irrigated (a rarity today). Every drop of water the vine uses comes from the sky. This is not because we can't irrigate, it's because this practice makes a more authentic, concentrated wine and reflective of the vintage. In addition, no yeast is added for fermentation. All are native and spontaneous (the same is true for malolactic). Again this is not because we can't but the wine is truer to its terroir and lower in alcohol. All of these procedures involve high risk and high reward. As I approach my thirtieth vintage at Mount Eden it's amazing how the winemaking has become as minimalist as possible.

This is our first offering from 2008. The growing conditions fit many parameters of high quality: low rainfall (25 inches), successful bloom in the spring and a moderate summer heat. The wine has a classic ruby hue, like only Pinot Noir has, with a sweet explosive nose of soft red fruit, cherry, pomegranate and earth. To me this variety is all about fruit and earth – round, generous and intense on the palate this vintage has the expected flavors of the Pinot Noir family of raspberry, plum black cherry and earth. Some tannin on the finish is apparent with great buttressing acidity.

Given our sixty-five year lineage, one should expect improvement through 2018 and a drinking plateau for another decade in a good cellar.

Main Points for Presentation:

- Burgundian Style
- Longest lineage of Pinot Noir in North America
- Good structure, acid and tannin for aging
- Fermented in small open top, one ton capacity fermentors
- Ages on the lees – This gives the wine more terrior character
- No fining or filtration before bottling
- 7 acres of Pinot Noir farmed at Mount Eden; Mount Eden clone