

Domaine Eden

Technical notes

2013 Pinot Noir Santa Cruz Mountains

Yield: 2.0 tons per acre
Harvest: August 29th - September 18th
Numbers @ Harvest: 23.5° Brix
3.30 pH
7.5 grams acidity

Barrel Regimen - French Burgundy-35% new; aged 13 months in barrel
Bottling - October 2014; no fining or filtration
Alcohol: 13.5%

2,058 cases produced

About Domaine Eden

Domaine Eden is a nearby mountaintop wine estate purchased by Mount Eden Vineyards in 2007. It was founded and built by the late Tom Mudd in 1983, and was initially planted with the Mount Eden clonal selections of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, which evolved to include Pinot Noir from various Dijon and California selections.

The viticulture at Domaine Eden is approached with the same level of naturalness and sustainability as Mount Eden's estate vineyards. The soils here, however, are different from the estate's Franciscan shale so even though Domaine Eden is a mere mile away "as the crow flies", the wines express more varietal fruit with expansive mid-palate flavors than the soil-driven minerality of Mount Eden estate wines.

With the differences in vineyard character, the property inspired a new wine brand, Domaine Eden, which focuses on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from this special site and Bordeaux varieties from Mount Eden's larger home, the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Winemakers notes at release: Spring 2016

Our Domaine Eden vineyard site is totally different from Mount Eden's Estate vineyards. Although only two miles apart, the contrast is based on soil type and the unique ability of Pinot Noir clones to reveal the differences in a soil. Mount Eden's Estate soil is shale and rock. The wines are soil-driven. While Domaine Eden's soils are beautifully textured loam devoid of rocks, these wines are fruit-driven. In addition, at Domaine Eden the vineyard is a compilation of many clones and selections. The complexity they create is paramount: from the heritage selections Mount Eden, Swan and Calera to the "Dijon" clones 115, 667, 777 and 828.

2013 is a concentrated, drought stressed year that started early. The winter rains stopped after January 1st and winter was warm. As a result we started harvesting in late August, a full two weeks earlier than normal.

The wines show a dense and seductive aroma of plum, wild strawberry and mountain lilac (yes they are in abundance surrounding the vineyards.) On the palate the 2013 dominates with an intense core of red fruit. Quite youthful at this point, yet it still retains the lift and elegance that is the true nature of Pinot Noir.