

2020 Domaine Eden Pinot Noir, Santa Cruz Mountains

History

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, who initially planted the Mount Eden clonal selections of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, which evolved to include Pinot Noir from various Dijon and California selections. This is the former home of *Cinnabar Winery*.

This 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 2023

Our Domaine Eden Pinot Noir vineyards are a wonderful mix of clones, Dijon 667, 777, and 828, with historic selections of Mount Eden, Calera, Swan, and Pommard. This mosaic creates the wine's complexity along with, of course, the *terroir*.

Domaine Eden is entirely north facing, so it gets little direct sun. It is ideal for the fragile Pinot Noir fruit, which is sensitive to intense heat or light. The delicacy and elegance hallmarks of Pinot Noir are naturally abundant.

An early harvest ensued in 2020 during the first half of September; all the fermentations are indigenous, and the wines are never fined or filtered.

Spicy aromas of cherry, plum, and cedar box are alluring. The palate is broad with blue and red fruit concentration. Although pleasing now, this vintage will pay dividends with 4-5 years of cellaring.

The Santa Cruz Mountains AVA

Mount Eden's larger home is the Santa Cruz Mountain Appellation. It is America's first mountain AVA—recognized in 1981—with winegrowing dating back to the 1860s.

The appellation encompasses the Santa Cruz Mountain range, with boundaries defined by the elevation of the fog levels at daybreak in the spring and summer months, typically between 400 feet on the western side and 800 feet on the east.

The region is planted to approximately 1300 acres of vineyards, of different varietals and soil types. The wines come from high-altitude, small vineyard lots—surrounded by native chaparral and, in some locations, Redwood trees—growing atop ancient seabed. These growing conditions give the wines a distinct character and regional identity.



The Vineyard:

Acreage: 13.75

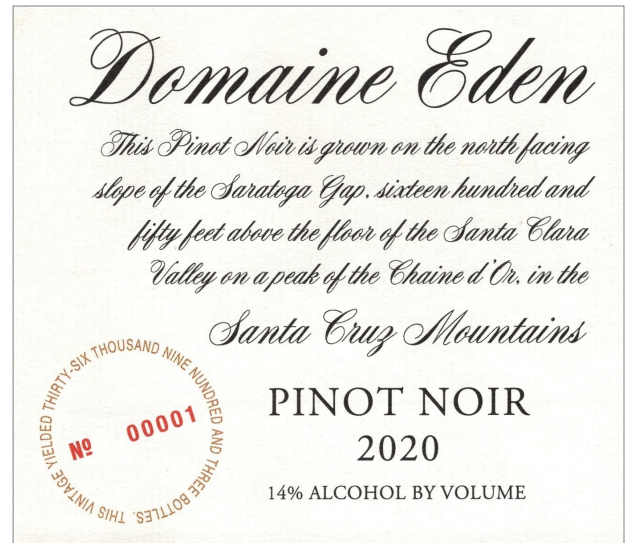
Average Age of Vines: 20 years

Clones: Dijon 667, 777, and 828,
historic selections: Mount Eden,
Calera, Swan, and Pommard

Training: Vertical shoot positioning

Spacing: 6 X 10

Soils: Los Gatos Clay Loam



Winemaking and Technical Data

Rain Total 2020 Season: 20.6 inches

Yield: 2.4 tons per acre

Harvest Dates: September 1st-9th, hand harvested

Brix: 23.1°

pH: 3.52

TA: 7.0

Fermentation: 20% Whole cluster

Barrels: 100% barrel aged in French Oak 2-5 years old

Aging: 11 months

Bottled: August 2021, No fining or filtration

Alcohol: 14%

Cases produced: 3,066

Talking Points for Presentation

This Pinot Noir is a mosaic of different selections and clones grown at Domaine Eden. Each parcel is farmed to strict standards of sustainability and low yields. These are the same exacting methods employed for Mount Eden's Estate wines: natural indigenous fermentations—both primary and secondary, French Burgundy barrels, no fining, filtration or any other manipulation.

Reviews

91 points *Wine Spectator*