

2011 pinot noir santa maria valley



vintage notes

Preceded by 186% of our normal average rainfall and one of the coolest growing seasons in nearly 30 years, the 7th bottling of our SMV Pinot Noir yields one of our most elegant, fresh and compelling wines to date. It is delicate and unique, but it stays true to the typicity of our growing region. This wine is an example of the high quality Pinot Noir can achieve, even with the unusual 2011 growing season in the Santa Maria Valley.

wine information

Appellation 100% Santa Maria Valley

Clones 2A, 113, 115, 828, 777,
Pommard, Martini

Whole Cluster 15%

Oak treatment 20% New French

Aging time 19 months

Alcohol by Vol. 12.7%

pH 3.77

TA 5.07 g/L

Brix at Harvest 22.5 - 23.0

Bottling Date March 2013

750ml Cases produced 4600

Magnums produced 300

Kegs produced 150

alta maria vineyards

James Ontiveros and Paul Wilkins have travelled many roads that have all led to here. With a couple of friends in college, they bonded over a burgeoning interest in wine. Interest grew into obsession and obsession was fused into the most conventional aspects of their youth. They spent and sacrificed more than many their age to become veterans in their fields. Then, they moved away and lost touch as life unfolded before them.

Over time, each was drawn to a region of quiet treasure: the Santa Maria Valley. James' vineyard set upon his family's ranch was the setting of the reunion of these two friends. This time, they were prepared to turn each other's passion into a partnership which seems to have been waiting for them all along. From there, they have shared affinity for all things homespun, historical and honest, which reflects the unflappable authenticity of the Santa Maria Valley.

Alta Maria Vineyards has become their tribute to the seldom heralded excellence of this regions' vineyards, climate, geography and the people who have known this all along.



THE ARTWORK for Alta Maria Vineyards features hand hewn iron nails used by homesteaders in Santa Maria before the Industrial Revolution introduced mass-produced, machine-cut nails. Despite its lowly function, each nail is unique from the next according to the conditions in which it was made and the expertise of the craftsman.

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