



SIERRA MADRE *Vineyard*

2006 PINOT NOIR SIERRA MADRE VINEYARD SANTA MARIA VALLEY

VINEYARD

DESIGNATION	ESTATE
APPELLATION	SANTA MARIA VALLEY
SOIL TYPE, SERIES	SANDY LOAM, GAREY
AVERAGE ELEVATION	402'
VINE SPACING	6' X 6'
EXPOSURE	EAST/WEST
YEAR PLANTED	1997
ROOTSTOCK/CLONE	5C/777

HARVEST 2006

DATE	10/12/06
TONS	6.586
TONS/ACRE	3.1

WINEMAKING

WINEMAKER	KENNETH VOLK, STEVE RASMUSSEN
MONTHS IN OAK	TEN
OAK AGE	62.5% NEW FRENCH (DEMPLOS) 25% ONE-YR HUNGARIAN (DEMPLOS) 12.5% 2004 FRENCH (SEGUIN MOREAU)

WINE

PH	3.84
TA	0.63 G/100 ML
ALCOHOL	15.2%
BOTTLING DATE	8/23/07
CASES PRODUCED	375
RELEASE DATE	2/1/08
DRINK	DRINK NOW TO 2018, WILL PEAK 2014-2016

Situated in one of the Central Coast's most coveted appellations, the Sierra Madre Vineyard lies near the western edge of the Santa Maria Valley, in northern Santa Barbara County. The light-textured, well-drained, sandy-loam soils cultivated here nourish our low-yielding vines to set clusters with small berries, intense with flavor, color and concentration, all essential qualities for top-level wines.

Arguably California's coolest grape growing region, this coastal valley is equally well-suited to both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, as cold Pacific air blankets the vineyard each summer afternoon. This natural moderation of heat accumulation slows ripening in the developing grapes, allowing for extended 'hang-time' to deliver vibrant fruit character, while retaining crisp, fresh acidity in the resulting wines.

This inaugural release of the Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir is owner Doug Circle's celebration of the history of this fine vineyard, as well as its unbounded future potential.

The 2006 growing season was characterized by relatively cool conditions during the spring and early summer months. As the season progressed, sunny conditions prevailed, and our fruit achieved optimal maturity during the fall, with cool nights protecting our grapes in their slow march to ripeness. The pick eventually took place on October 12, with clean, ripe Pinot Noir grapes reaching ideal flavor and color balance.

Selectively hand-harvested, the fruit was rapidly transported to the winery, where the freshly destemmed grapes were treated to a three day cold soak to extract soft skin tannins. The vats were then inoculated with AMH yeast and a slow, steady two-week fermentation ensued. Cap management involved multiple daily, manual punchdowns to facilitate complete maceration and optimal extraction of the best qualities from the fermenting must. Pressing was handled gently, in a small basket press at capfall, with care taken to not bruise the tender berries. The new wine was aged in a combination of barrels from several European cooperage sources, including both French and Hungarian oak, imparting a subtly toasty, elegant wood character to the developing wine. In all, this wine spent ten months maturing in barrel prior to blending and bottling.

At blending time, Winemakers Kenneth Volk and Steve Rasmussen had several lots from which to choose, to make this very small production wine. They ended up selecting a single lot of Dijon Clone 777. Known for rich, dark, deep bodied fruit with high-toned aromatics, this clonal selection of Pinot Noir is highly-sought-after by those winemakers who have experienced its lovely nature in the vineyard and the cellar.

The 2006 Pinot Noir opens beautifully in the glass, with refined aromas of ripe red cherry, violet, strawberry, and barrel toast. Its bright acidity balances nicely with rich flavors of red plums, black cherry, brown spice, and anise. Additional cellaring of this, our premiere vintage of Sierra Madre Pinot Noir, will encourage development of classic earthy, forest-floor notes in the wine, and will hasten the softening of its subtle but firm tannins. Long on the palate, this wine offers a sleek silky, cherry-strawberry finish. It will age gracefully in bottle for many years to come.

