



**2008 ESTATE PINOT NOIR**  
**SIERRA MADRE VINEYARD**  
**SANTA MARIA VALLEY**

**VINEYARD** .....

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>DESIGNATION</b>       | ESTATE                                  |
| <b>APPELLATION</b>       | SANTA MARIA VALLEY                      |
| <b>SOIL TYPE, SERIES</b> | SANDY-LOAM, GAREY                       |
| <b>AVERAGE ELEVATION</b> | 402'                                    |
| <b>VINE SPACING</b>      | 6' X 6'                                 |
| <b>EXPOSURE</b>          | EAST/WEST                               |
| <b>YEAR PLANTED</b>      | 1997                                    |
| <b>ROOTSTOCK</b>         | 5C                                      |
| <b>CLONES</b>            | 777(50%), 5(20%), 667(17%),<br>828(13%) |

**HARVEST 2008** .....

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| <b>DATE</b> | 9/15-9/29     |
| <b>TONS</b> | 163           |
| <b>BRIX</b> | 24.3° - 26.3° |

**WINEMAKING** .....

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>WINEMAKER</b>     | STEVE RASMUSSEN                      |
| <b>MONTHS IN OAK</b> | 16 MONTHS IN FRENCH<br>OAK (35% NEW) |

**WINE** .....

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>PH</b>               | 3.61             |
| <b>TA</b>               | 0.61 g/100ml     |
| <b>ACTUAL ALCOHOL</b>   | 14.0%            |
| <b>BOTTLING DATE</b>    | 1/27/10          |
| <b>BARRELS PRODUCED</b> | 62 BARRELS       |
| <b>RELEASE DATE</b>     | 9/10             |
| <b>DRINK</b>            | NOW THROUGH 2018 |

**THE VINEYARD SITE**

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 nourish the low-yielding vines to set clusters with small berries, intense with flavor, color and concentration, all essential qualities for top-level wines. With its evening sea breezes, the region is arguably California's coolest grape growing region, this coastal valley is perfectly suited to cool climate varieties, including Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc. The Sierra Madre Vineyard wines are owner Doug Circle's celebration of the history of this fine vineyard, as well as its unbounded future potential.

**THE WEATHER**

The 2008 weather was typically cool, with the mean temperature in the 55-65 degree range throughout the growing season. Precipitation was very low, which we supplemented with modest irrigation to keep the vine growth in balance. The irrigation strategy and the cool afternoons and nights ensured the slow and intense flavor development that our customers cherish.

**THE WINEMAKING STYLE**

Winemaker Steve Rasmussen insists on hand-harvesting and sorting in the cool morning, a scenario ideally suited to Sierra Madre's unique coastal proximity. At the winery, Burgundian techniques were employed and each clone was gently vinified as an individual lot. The wine was aged in French oak barrels (35% new), imparting a subtly toasty, elegant wood character to the developing wine. At blending time, individual barrels were selected from the four Pinot Noir clones being aged, 777, 5, 667, and 828. Each of the clones contribute an elegant component to this harmonious Estate Pinot Noir.

**TASTING NOTES & FOOD PAIRING**

The Pinot Noir is deeply colored and sports a vibrant crimson hue. Wild lingonberry and pleasant forest floor undertones combine perfectly with a sweet black cherry aroma. The full dark-berry mouthfeel finishes round and expansive on the mid-palette.

This wine is ideal for bridging an array of flavors from grilled meats and seafood, to wild game, or sausage and mushroom pizza.

