

CHATEAU ST JEAN

2021 BENOIST RANCH PINOT NOIR

SINGLE VINEYARD

SONOMA COAST

Our roots are in Sonoma County. We have made wines from the region's diverse vineyards for over 50 years, starting in 1973. A fine wine estate with European style, we are proud to produce balanced and elegant wines, a hallmark of Chateau St. Jean. Our single-vineyard and blend expressions celebrate Sonoma County's distinctive, world-class growing region, and the special vineyard sites in which our grapes are grown.

VINEYARDS

The Grace Benoist Ranch vineyard is tucked away in the far northwest corner of Carneros, within the southwest area of the Sonoma Coast appellation. Unlike most of this region, which is largely uplifted bay bottoms with soils composed of clay, the soils at Grace Benoist Ranch are of volcanic origin. These well-drained, rocky upland soils and the proximity to the Pacific Ocean and San Pablo Bay make this site an ideal place to grow Burgundian varieties. Individual vineyards within the ranch average only eight acres in size and spacing is dense to ensure low per-vine yields of fully-concentrated fruit.

VINTAGE

2021 was a perfect ripening vintage in the Sonoma Coast, and the Pinot Noir fruit from the Benoist Ranch was exceptional. With mild winter and spring temperatures, budbreak was ahead of average. Summer was warm and dry, with above average temperatures in August and September, leading to an early and fast ripening harvest. The warm weather resulted in ripe fruit flavors and one of the earliest starts of harvest in recent history.

WINEMAKING

Our Pinot Noir grapes are sorted, crushed and destemmed before a 10-day fermentation on skins. Pump overs are conducted regularly for the duration of primary fermentation. Once primary fermentation is complete, the wine is drained, pressed and barreled down for 18 months in French oak barrels (35% new).

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 Benoist Ranch Pinot Noir is elegantly structured, intricately layered, and a true representation of the dynamic Sonoma Coast appellation. On the nose, preserved strawberry and rhubarb with hints of graphite, cinnamon, and menthol entice the senses. The expansive mid-palate expresses deep earthy characters complemented by notes of spice. This wine pairs beautifully with lamb tenderloin with cranberry glaze, smoked salmon salad, or pork belly sliders.

2021

APPELLATION	Sonoma Coast
VARIETAL	100% Pinot Noir
OAK	100% French oak, 35% new
AGING	18 months
ALCOHOL	15.5%
T.A.	6.91 g/L
pH	3.471
PRODUCTION	170 (9L) cases