

2001 Pinot Noir Carneros "Las Amigas Vineyard"



100% "Las Amigas Vineyard", Carneros
Harvested at 25.2 Brix,
on September 17, 2001
14.9% Alcohol
0.58 TA / 3.76 pH
263 Cases Produced
Release Date: September 2003

HARVEST NOTES. Despite a rollercoaster growing season, the 2001 vintage will be marked by big, full wines of concentrated color and flavor. March and part of April were cold, followed by the hottest May on record and the third hottest June in total degree days. Fortunately, August cooled down to perfect, average high temperatures of 85 degrees and almost chilly nights to put vines back on track. The grapes were able to settle, extending the all important hang time and balance resulting in deeper, more intense color maximum character richness. Yields averaged 2.6 tons/acre in 2001.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Destemmed pinot noir grapes plus 10% whole clusters were cold macerated for 96 hours in open-top tanks before fermentation on native yeasts. The must was punched down three times daily during 14 days of fermentation, then pressed and racked to the tank. The press fraction was not used for this wine to assure the highest quality possible. After settling out in the tank for 24 hours, the wine was inoculated for malolactic fermentation (MLF) and barreled down in 54% new French oak (François Freres, Sirugue, and Remond.). Following traditional Burgundian techniques that advocate minimal handling, the wine was neither filtered nor fined with only one racking before bottling on March 3, 2003.

TASTING NOTES: Black cherry, vanilla and cinnamon on the nose with slight floral / smoky / sandalwood tones. Silky texture, full bodied and creamy on the palate. Intense fruit flavors, especially black cherry and raspberry with cinnamon anise, and vanilla spiciness. Finishes with layers of fruit and spicy / cherry/ toast flavors. Drinkability : 2003 – 2013.

VINEYARD NOTES: The "Las Amigas Vineyard" located in the Carneros district of the Napa Valley was formally owned by the Martinis, then sold to Andy Beckstoffer in 1992. The vineyard was planted with clone 113, which provides us with high quality, small berries, and low yields.

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