

1999 PINOT NOIR-LAS AMIGAS VINEYARD-CARNEROS



100% Las Amigas "Carneros,"
Pinot Noir
Harvested at 24.2 Brix, on
September 30, 1999
13.9% Alcohol
0.59 TA/ 3.76 pH
216 Cases Produced
Release Date: September 1, 2002

HARVEST NOTES: The 1999 Napa Valley growing season was long and cool allowing us to harvest extraordinarily clean, healthy grapes with excellent acidity and mature varietal fruit flavors. With growing conditions in 1999 similar to 1998, but cooler, grape clusters were very healthy with no sunburn. This year Napa Valley experienced its typical difference in daytime (warm) and evening (cool) temperatures that create optimal conditions for the development of balanced sugar and acid levels. Other than a trace of precipitation in mid September, rain was not an issue in 1999. Yields averaged 2.6 tons/per acre in 1999.

WINEMAKING NOTES: Destemmed grapes with 30% whole clusters were cold macerated for 96 hours before fermentation in open-top fermentors, using the native yeasts. The must was punched down three times daily during 18 days of maceration. The wine was then pressed and racked directly to barrels and inoculated for malolactic fermentation (MLF). It completed MLF and was aged for 17 months in 60% new Burgundy barrels (60% François Freres, 20% Siruge, 20% Tonnellerie Remond.) Following traditional Burgundian techniques that advocate minimal handling, the wine was not fined or filtered with only one racking at bottling on March 15, 2001.

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: Now to 2011

VINEYARD NOTES: This vineyard located in the Carneros district of the Napa Valley, formally owned by the Martinis, then sold to Andy Beckstoffer was planted in 1963. Vines are an undetermined field clone. The results are small berries with low yields and high quality.

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