



2021 PINOT NOIR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

TASTING NOTE

Our Santa Barbara County Pinot Noir is often the first wine that people try from The Ojai Vineyard, so we're uncompromising when it comes to ensuring this wine's deliciousness. The 2021 harvest made things easier, at least insofar as helping us capture a Pinot Noir that is packed with fragrance (the defining attribute of Pinot Noir, in our view). The freshness here is striking; aromas of supple flower petals come wafting out of the glass—iris, sweet pea blossoms, a hint of rose. Beneath that you find a medley of high-toned red fruits, all laced with black tea, suede leather, and delicate whole-cluster spiciness. It's silky and charming, giving flavors of raspberry and sweet cranberry, along with salinity, spice, and a gentle bite of mineral tannins that engage the palate. All together it's an easy-going package, showing all the immediacy and delicacy that we aim to showcase in this wine.

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING

2021 was a terrific vintage for us in Santa Barbara County. While many other parts of the state were quite hot that year, our area remained anomalously cool and foggy. Fog is a major component of classic Santa Barbara County vintages, but it was more persistent than usual in 2021, and downright milky at times. All of our Pinot Noir was picked about three weeks later than in 2020. The most coastal vineyards in this blend, Presqu'île and Puerta Del Mar, were entirely destemmed. Kessler-Haak and Fe Ciega were fermented with a fraction of whole-clusters. After being pressed and racked to barrels, the wine aged on fine lees for 9 months and saw no sulfur until a minimal amount was added before bottling. Nine months is a shorter *élevage* than our single-vineyard Pinots; we like the approach with this wine. There's more of a fun, flirty feel, with textural immediacy that helps the wine hit the ground running with drinkability.

Vineyard Blend: 50% Presqu'île, 23% Kessler-Haak, 17% Fe Ciega, 10% Puerta Del Mar

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARDS 50% Presqu'île, 23% Kessler-Haak, 17% Fe Ciega, 10% Puerta Del Mar

AVA Santa Barbara County

ALCOHOL 13.0%

VINIFICATION open top fermentation with 9% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 9 months in French oak barrels, 7% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 668 Cases

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THE
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VINEYARD