



2016 PINOT NOIR NORTH CANYON VINEYARD, SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Pinot Noir expresses the place it was grown to a degree that no other wine grape can. The varietal offers a delicate transparency that when pursued right, effortlessly reveals its origins. After 30 years of crafting Pinot Noir in Carneros, Etude continues its study of this captivating varietal and its varying expressions in some of the New World's most renowned Pinot-producing regions.

As Santa Barbara County's northernmost AVA, Santa Maria Valley is renowned for its unique funnel created by two transverse mountain ranges running east by west. Pinot Noir excels in this well-known transverse valley that, despite its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, is uniquely situated just north of Point Conception, right where the climate is warm and mild enough to ripen grapes to full maturity.

VINEYARD

Less than twenty miles from the Pacific Ocean, North Canyon Vineyard sits along the Santa Maria river bench in a secluded canyon that provides some protection from the region's renowned maritime influences. Located a bit off the direct valley, temperatures are often a few degrees warmer and North Canyon is exposed to extended periods of sunshine that ensure Pinot Noir matures to a bright red fruit character. A variety of rootstocks and clones are planted in calcareous clay sandstone at North Canyon, which differs from the valley's defining marine mixture of ancient sea bed, clay loam and sand. Fruit from one select block, located on a bluff in the southern, cooler end of the canyon, was chosen for this Pinot Noir. In order to achieve the same high level of quality wines, the farming of North Canyon is uniquely hands on, which ensures viticulture practices and farming measures are comparable with that of Etude's Estate Vineyards.

VINTAGE

The extended drought was beginning to cause real concern as the 2016 growing season kicked off. However, a very warm spring and early summer with almost no rain allowed the fruit to ripen at a very steady and deliberate pace. July and August brought cool nights and gentle warmth to the Santa Maria Valley that allowed the smaller-sized crop to mature perfectly, producing small berries in pristine condition. The drier-than-normal conditions and the region's abundant sunshine resulted in wines with excellent concentration, balance, color and intensity, resulting in Pinot Noir fruit showing exceptional depth and finesse.

WINEMAKING

Crafted with the same minimal winemaking techniques as Etude's celebrated Carneros Pinot Noirs, each regional wine purely reflects the unique essence and character of its regional vineyard and still maintains Etude's hallmarks of aromatic intrigue, vibrancy of expression and depth in ageability.

TASTING NOTES

The signature of North Canyon Pinot Noir is a noticeably darker red fruit tone, and this vintage is no exception, given its beautifully saturated ruby red color. Notes of boysenberry, young plum and black cherry intertwine, ushering in nuances of rooibos tea leaves and oak spice. Elegant tannins develop into a supple texture and bright acidity provides a rich buoyancy. This wine has balance, depth and complexity that remains on the palate long into its finish.

SUSTAINABLE CERTIFICATION

Sustainability in Practice (SIP) Certified;
Napa Green Certified Winery

CLONES

Dijon 115, 667, 777, 113

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir

ANALYSIS

Alc: 14.2% | pH: 3.63 | TA: 0.56g/100ml

VINIFICATION

Aged in 100% French oak barrels
(25% new) for 10 months