

2016

PISONI VINEYARDS PINOT NOIR

Santa Lucia Highlands



PATZ & HALL



RELEASE DATE: April 2019
CASES PRODUCED: 577
LABEL ALCOHOL: 15.0%

VINEYARD CHARACTER

This famous vineyard is situated above the Salinas Valley near the town of Gonzales, in Monterey County. Perched on a sandy mesa, Pisoni is the benchmark for superlative Pinot Noir from the Santa Lucia Highlands. Reflecting a perfect convergence of aspect, site and soil, it has consistently produced one of the most complex, extracted and amazingly intense wines at Patz & Hall.

VINTAGE NOTES

2016 was another fantastic growing season. It started out with good winter rainfall, which after four years of drought, was a big relief. While the summer of 2016 was quite hot, a perfectly timed cool-down over a three-week period in August allowed the grapes to ripen with moderate sugar levels. It also preserved the acidity that is so essential to making great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Thus, the quality is exceptional with vivid, alluring flavors in the Chardonnays and deep colors and gorgeous aromatics in the Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES

With power to spare, this site tends to revel in opulent, large scale versions of Pinot Noir. Aromas of cherry eau de vie, cassis, dark cocoa, licorice, strawberry pie, and savory herbs abound. The mouth is dense and full bodied, with layers of sappy red fruits tied to a streak of fresh acidity, which defines this very cool site. The coating mouthfeel remains fresh and mouthwatering through a surprisingly long and detailed finish. This justifiably famous site produces wines that are enigmatically powerful, yet detailed, nuanced and complex. This 2016 finds its place amongst some of the finest versions Pisoni Vineyard has produced.

WINEMAKING

- 100% Pinot Noir
- Multi-yeast fermentations (native yeast, followed by cultured yeast)
- 10% whole cluster added
- 100% malo-lactic fermentation in barrel
- 100% Burgundian French oak barrels (70% new; 30% 1-2-year old)
- Bottled without filtration to preserve the wine's aromas and flavors and enhance aging potential

THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

Gary, Mark and Jeff Pisoni - Pisoni Vineyard - Santa Lucia Highlands, Monterey County

Like several of the grower families Patz & Hall works with, the Pisonis come from a multigenerational farming background. Gary Pisoni's father was a row crop farmer in the Salinas Valley, Gary's son Mark is a dedicated vineyard manager and farmer, while son Jeff is a noted winemaker. Though the Pisonis still cultivate approximately 500 acres of vegetables, their fame has come as winegrowers. Located in the far southern hills of the Santa Lucia Highlands, Pisoni Vineyard is an iconic site, and one of the region's grand cru vineyards. The original plantings of Pinot Noir took place in the early 1980s, and we are fortunate to source our fruit from Pisoni's coveted "old field" and "Hermanos" blocks.

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James Hall
JAMES HALL | Winemaker