

2015 DIERBERG PINOT NOIR
DIERBERG VINEYARD, SANTA MARIA VALLEY
\$44



ALCOHOL
14.0%

AGED
16 months

OAK
20% New French, 400L

HARVESTED
August 2015

BOTTLED
December 2016

CELLAR LIFE
7-15 years

VINTAGE

2015 brought some dramatic yield differences from recent vintages. After plentiful yields in 2012-2014, the vines seemed content with producing fewer clusters. Then in May, we experienced one of the coldest weather patterns in over a decade during flowering, reducing the amount of berries that set. Therefore yields were very low. The season progressed fairly normally if being early like the previous drought-driven vintages. While the vintage will be known for several heat spells from mid-September into October, the Chardonnay was harvested prior to those spells and had a lovely, cool ripening period to finish. Therefore the vintage was concentrated, fresh, and limited.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2015 theme for our cool coastal vineyards was low yield, intense structure, and a veiled nature that wants time to reveal itself. As initial blocks of Pinot Noir were harvested it was quickly apparent that the vintage's intensity required less stem inclusion and maceration time needed to be shortened. We enjoy good tannin structure and tension in our Pinot Noir, but all Pinot should have an elegant balance if tense in its general profile. With depth and tannin coming quickly, we reduced time on skins to accommodate this intensity. One might think more new oak would work, but we felt the depth of the wines provided such complexity that we didn't want to confound it with anything but our typical program.

94 points Wine Enthusiast

TASTING NOTES

We marvel at this wine. The mouth feel suggests great complexity, tension, length, and has that initial breadth we've grown accustomed to from Dierberg Vineyard. These are great qualities of great wines, but we confess that the strength of this vintage is still veiled aromatically. We entrust ourselves to the freshness of this mouth feel and the history of the vineyard to know that the aromatics will continue to unveil a great elaborate mystery of flavors based on Santa Maria's earthy nature and dark cherry qualities. Indeed even as the bottles have aged we see aromatic complexity emerge. It makes us smile. The lover of both structured, masculine Pinot Noir and balanced, incredibly intense but fresh Pinot Noirs should find solace in this wine.

