

# 2016 Central Coast Pinot Noir

#### WINEMAKER COMMENTS

The nose leads with aromas of plum and berries intermixed with crushed rocks. Notes of pomegranate are counterpointed with lively elements of orange peel and dried flowers. The entry is fat with a mid-palate lift of plum and flowers. The tannins are very tea-like, and carry on to the elegant finish with a touch of fresh acidity. An impression of minerals and earthiness is conveyed throughout the palate, adding intrigue and complexity. The palate is uniquely soft and chalky, and is filled with flavors of berry and mocha, with a subtle toasted almond finish.

## THE VINEYARD

The Vista Verde Vineyard, located a couple miles southeast of Hollister, California, near the small town of Tres Pinos in San Benito County. This heavy limestone vineyard is separated into nine blocks that include clones such as Pommard, Calera, Canada, 667, Mt. Eden, and Swan.

# HARVEST 2016

The 2016 vintage was an excellent growing season, and started out as the previous four vintages; with a warm and dry winter. The main difference in 2016 was cooler temperatures in late February, and increasing rain totals in March that helped slow down vegetative growth. The net result was a slightly longer vegetative cycle, a slower grape maturation cycle, and therefore a later harvest compared to 2015. These events allowed for perfect maturation of the grape tannins and flavor development. Harvest started with pleasant weather on August 10 in the Middle Reach Neighborhood vineyards (Westside Road). Weather in late August cooled, and by early September temperatures warmed up and dry conditions prevailed. The result was our core harvest was completed under ideal conditions by end of September. Overall, the wines from the 2016 vintage exhibit wonderfully polished tannins due to long and slow grape maturation on the vine.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

Barrel Description: 34% new, 34% 1 yr., 32% 2 yr.

Barrel Aged: 11 months

pH: 3.59

TA: 0.59g/100mL

Alc: 13.3%

Released Spring 2018

\$39

