



1999
BENZIGER
RESERVE PINOT NOIR
Sonoma County

VINIFICATION: Four lots of grapes were culled from these three vineyards and each was matched individually to the size and shape fermentor best suited to its development. All lots were cold soaked to extract maximum flavor with minimum tannin. Punch down and pump over routines were monitored and altered daily through the 8-13 day fermentation. The wine, still maintained in separate lots, was rushed to French oak shortly after pressing to finish secondary fermentation and was stirred weekly to intermittently to build middle mouthfeel and velvety texture. The wine received a total of 18 months barrel aging. The individual lots were blended, then bottled in June 2001. Alcohol: 13.5%, Total acidity: .62, pH: 3.56, Residual sugar: .06. Cases produced: 1,404.

VINTAGE: Each year, as part of our Reserve program, we select the best blocks from the best vineyards, which are then kept separate through the winemaking process until being selected, barrel-by-barrel, for the final blend. For growing seasons with unique personality, 1999 did not disappoint. We did see some hot weather but much less than normal. We had good weather for bud-break and bloom that helped insure a good set. Because of the late season, which creates the potential for fruit not to ripen – we employed judicious irrigation during the summer to control growth and uniformity and we crop thinned after veraison to aid in ripening. As we entered mid September (latest ever), we needed heat and got it. Once harvest began in earnest in late September things went very quickly, by October 23rd it was effectively over.

TASTING NOTES: A stellar vintage that rivals the highly rated 1997, our 1999 Reserve Pinot Noir shows lush red plum, berry and spice notes, which are carried to a prolonged finish in a smooth, textured mouthfeel. Can cellar for up to 7 years.

VINTAGE
1999

PRICE
\$42

RELEASE DATE
June 2002

AVAILABILITY
Select Markets Nationally

APPELLATIONS
55% Santa Barbara County
45% Sonoma County

VINEYARDS
SANTA MARIA VALLEY
Bien Nacido Vineyards
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
Sterling Vineyard

SONOMA VALLEY
Little Vineyard

www.benziger.com

Terry Nolan, Winemaker