



HARVEST

Santa Maria Valley experienced a relatively warm growing season in 2016, resulting in an early harvest. Rainfall was below average for the fifth year in a row, which contributed to lower yields in the vineyards. Clusters and berries were small, translating to excellent concentration and aromatics.

VINEYARDS

The Garey Vineyard lies in the heart of the Santa Maria Valley on a bench above the small town of Garey. The terroir is one of gently rolling slopes with sandy loam soils. The coastal fog influence and the cool afternoon breezes are the perfect climate for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The vineyard was planted in 1998 by the Robert Mondavi Winery and is also SIP (sustainability in practice) certified. The clones for this wine are Dijon clones 667 and 115.

WINEMAKING

Pinot Noir grapes were hand harvested into half-ton bins and crushed into a temperature-controlled tank. Following a two-day cold soak at 58 degrees, which promoted enhanced extraction of color, aroma and flavor, the lot was inoculated with Assmanshausen yeast to initiate the cool primary fermentation. The fermenting juice was pumped over three to four times daily during the peak of fermentation, then once daily until dry, about three weeks. After pressing, the wine was transferred to a combination of one-third new French oak barrels, one-third one-year-old barrels and one-third two-year-old barrels where it underwent malo-lactic fermentation and aged for 16 months.

TASTING NOTES

This Pinot Noir displays classic Santa Maria Valley aromatics featuring hints of black cherry, cranberry and raspberry chutney with accents of cedar, white pepper and subtle French oak. The flavors are rich and lush with notes of Ranier cherry, mixed berries and a hint of sage. The wine balances a velvety texture with bright acidity, culminating in a lush, lingering finish.

Varietal:	Pinot Noir	T.A.:	6.6 g/l
Appellation:	Santa Maria Valley	pH:	3.54
Vineyard:	Garey Vineyard	Alcohol:	14.1%
Harvest:	September 8, 2016	Bottling:	January 31, 2018
Oak Aging:	16 months	Production:	203 cases