



Fall 2021 | HANG -TIME

Welcome to Fall, friends of Croix Estate!

Ask any grower we contract with in Sonoma County what is the number one item that sets Croix Estate apart from 95% of their contracted farming clients when it comes to Pinot Noir? Hang-time. We drive growers absolutely nuts playing the waiting game. Think about it from the grower's perspective. You pour your soul into framing your vineyard and you call-in the picks. Everyone else says, "Bring it in." Then the Croix boys send our samplers out and say, "The fruit isn't ready. We need to hold our pick." Ouch.

You see, our purpose is to farm and produce Pinot Noir that will age longer than 5 years, which is typical of California Pinot Noir. Have you ever shelled out \$200 plus on an "elite" Pinot Noir and saved it for that special occasion, only to find that years later it has fallen

apart and has passed its prime? We have too and it has been a major disappointment at each occurrence.

Allowing fruit composition to come to full ripeness—skin thickening, tannin development, seed maturation, acid and sugar balance—is what we believe will set our Pinot Noirs apart in the long term. Our pinnacle production objective, after all, is to produce Pinot Noir that will age gracefully for 15 years or more in proper conditions. Is it risky? Yes! Will we accomplish our goal come the next 20 years? We hope you will hang with us over the coming decades, as time will tell whether we are chasing an elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, or not. What fun! Speaking of hang-time.

Grab a glass of something good and enjoy the read. Production is super limited on the Pinot Noirs with no 2020 vintage due to fires on all wines featured here. You don't miss your Fall allotment.

Your Allocation

To view your allocation please visit

CroixEstate.com/
Acquire
and login.

We are here in person as well.

(707) 595-3803

2019 La Cinghiale GSM | Kick Ranch Vineyard, Rincon Valley, Sonoma County

Croix Estate enthusiasts have come to recognize that we are not shy about growing fruit to its optimal ripeness. However, where there is ripeness, there is balance and harmony, and our Croix Estate 2019 La Cinghiale GSM Red Blend is no exception.

There's something magical about hiking through a lush wood—alone. The sites, smells, and vulnerability in the wildness of the place produce clarion moments in life. Many a hike has been started near the town of Cazadero (Spanish for “The Hunting Place”), where treks into Austin Canyon and out to the Pacific Coast made for wild journeys to be moved through in one direction—west. For to return from whence one came was to tempt fate at the hands of a place where the boundaries between man and animal no longer exist. In that moment, one becomes part of the ecosystem and subject to falling prey within the hunting place. It is here that we find the inspiration for our “wildest” red wine within our portfolio.

As we have written in the past, the tusked boar can be found deep in the West Sonoma County mountains and represents the rugged independence found in the heart of every Northern Californian winegrower. Ferocious protectors of kin and land alike, the wild boar is an animal to revere and steer clear, lest you get

a run-down by a 1,000 pound beast. Speaking of beasts, the 2019 vintage of our La Cinghiale GSM Red Blend from the Kick Ranch Vineyard is pure drinking pleasure.

Our 2019 La Cinghiale GSM is a Southern Rhone-like blend of 43% Syrah, 39% Grenache, and the rest Mourvedre. 100% destemmed into 1/2 ton open top vats where cold-soaking for 7 days took place prior to native yeast fermentation over a period of 18 days. Hand punch downs were deployed to break and mix the cap for full extraction of color and flavor. 100% free run juice was barreled down into 65% new, 3-year, air-dried French oak barrels. Secondary fermentation was 100% native, taking place under cellar conditions during a 2 month period.

A knockout bouquet of blue and black fruits, licorice, smoked meats, cedar smoke, and fresh earth pull you into the glass in anticipation of the first sip. This wine is a monster on the palate. An unexpected balance of texture and acidity are followed by polished tannins. Blackberry, sweet cassis, espresso and semi-sweet cocoa with a lengthy finish make this pure drinking pleasure. Approachable now, yet capable of ageing gracefully for a decade.

7 Barrels Produced.

List Price—\$60 | Your Privileged Price—\$54



2019 South Block Six Pinot Noir | Platt Vineyard, Sonoma Coast

Eric Flanagan, the owner of Platt Vineyard, is an extreme Pinot fanatic who is filled with passionate fire for what makes great Pinot Noir and what does not. He earns every ounce of his respectable opinion by farming one of Sonoma County's premier Pinot vineyards just off of Bodega Highway as you get near the coast. Nothing but greatness comes from this man's property and we pay a high price for entrance into rare air.

Located in the western hills of Sebastopol, sitting at elevations that range from 400 feet to 800 feet, the vineyard is planted to a mélange of Pinot Noir clones. At 31 acres, our vineyard parcel is located in the south-western facing Block 6.

While located within 5 miles of the Pacific coast, this vineyard is deceptively warm. Taking the drive from the cold (62 degrees)

fog soaked Bodega Highway, one courses the vineyard's twisting road up the ridgeline and into the summer sun, where daytime temperatures range from the low 70's to the mid 80's. This is a spectacular juxtaposition of climate at elevation and serves as the foundation for producing some of Sonoma County's finest, and most expensive, Pinot Noir per acre.

South Block Six Pinot Noir sees all of the finest treatments that all of our single-vineyard Pinot's enjoy: hand harvesting, *Pellenc* sorting, extended cold soaking, cool and slow native fermentations, hand punch-downs, 100% carbonic macerations, free-run juice barreled down to 3-year air dried French oak (50% new) in a combination of cooperages, barrel ageing for 16 months, and bottle aging for a minimum of 7 months

before consideration of release.

2019 as a vintage saw little drama in the vineyard with a consistent growing season, resulting in more refined and elegant versions of Pinot Noir as a whole.

Lots of spicy, black olive and meaty nuances lead into heady aromatics of violets, black cherries, and baking spices. Gorgeous and silky on the palate with medium to full-bodied richness. Applewood smoke, orange zest, violets, ripe red and black fruits, cola and cloves, this wine is wonderfully complex with no shortage of refined tannins, which will lend itself to graciously ageing. Drink now through 2031 when cellar-aged.

5 Barrels Produced

List Price—\$110 | Your Privileged Price—\$99

2019 Old Manzana Slope Pinot Noir | Manzana Vineyard, Dutton Ranch, Russian River Valley

The foundation for production of ageable Pinot Noir began in the Manzana Vineyard. Al Steele, Vineyard Manager for Dutton Ranch, was observant enough to realize that we were serious about planting our flag in Russian River Valley and provided us with our first vineyard contract with the 2012 vintage. That fortuitous moment led to two barrels produced from the 2012 vintage and we have never looked back.

Manzana's hillside vineyard is eastern facing, which is optimal for ripening Pinot Noir in cooler growing regions. Planted to clone Dijon 828 and Dijon 115 in 2001, this vineyard sits on a sloped foundation of Goldridge soil with ideal drainage into Purrington Creek. The vineyard is a certified Sonoma County Sustainably-Farmed and Fish-Friendly vineyard. The site produces moderately sized vines with tiny clusters. Cool growing conditions due to the morning fog allow the Pinot Noir to ripen slowly, developing tannic acids overtime that lead to pure balance in the fruit

base. Of all of the Pinot Noirs we produce, Manzana has proven to be the Pinot Noir that will stand the test of time.

Forest floor, spiced red plums, dried honeysuckle, black cherries, and loads of baking spices come through on initial impressions. Medium to full-bodied, the mouthfeel is consuming and elegantly structured with refined tannins and purity of fruit. The cool, Green Valley climate comes through with wonderful acidity and exceptional glide over the palate. Delicious! Drink now through 2033.

5 Barrels Produced

List Price—\$95 | Your Privileged Price—\$85.55

Don't Forget!

Croix Estate is not open to the public. As an active client of our winery, you have the exclusive privilege of joining us for complimentary, private client tastings, with advance reservations.

To book your reservation with us, simply call (707) 595-3803.



We are now tasting the 2019 South Block Six Pinot Noir, Platt Vineyard, the 2019 Old Manzana Slope Pinot Noir, Manzana Vineyard, and the 2019 La Cinghiale GSM, Kick Ranch Vineyard at the winery upon availability.

Join us for a taste before it is too late!