



2003 Pinot Noir – Santa Maria Valley

The dominant portion of the 2003 Santa Maria Valley Pinot Noir comes from Foxen's own eleven-acre Block Eight of the Bien Nacido Vineyard that was planted for us in 1996. This bottling is comprised primarily of Pommard Clone from Block Eight's steep north face. Pommard Clone from the Julia's Vineyard makes up approximately 15% of this blend.

The fruit was picked during the first two weeks of September after near-perfect harvest conditions. De-stemmed whole berries were cold macerated, after which it was fermented in small, open top vessels. It was then de-juiced and lightly pressed. The young wine went into François Frères oak barrels (12% new) via gravity, where it aged for ten months before being bottled un-fined and un-filtered.

Winemaker's Comments:

This wine is very fruit forward in style, full of "Pinot candy" and spice (Cola nut, cinnamon, cardamom) displaying notes of strawberry, cherry and saffras. Supple and velvety in the mouth, this is an elegant wine.

Bill Wathen, Winemaker

Production: 1190 cases

88 Points

"...a delicious blend of currants, cola, beet root, earth and spice box. Crisp acidity backs up its medium-bodied, pure, nicely textured flavors. Drink it over the next 4-5 years."

Robert Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate