

PINOT — FOR THE — PEOPLE

Total domination of Pinot Noir. That's not our goal, but it's an interesting quest. What would it involve? In 2009, over 156,000 tons of Pinot Noir were crushed in California. That's up 45% from the previous year. That means a lot of new vineyards came into production in 2009. Our Winemaker Alex Cose selects our pinot grapes from established vineyards, vines with a little more dirt time. Older vines produce grapes with more complexity, balance and richer flavors. He also blends from premier appellations in the state including the Sonoma Coast and Santa Lucia Highlands and lots of great vineyards in between. We never compromise quality, flavor or the quintessential fruit forward style of our California Pinot. Our motto remains – Pinot for the People.

TERRITORY

Cooler areas along California's coast provide grapes with rich flavors, complexity and naturally low acid levels. We also select grapes from the sunny yet cooler areas of the California Sacramento River delta and the backside of Monterey County to give juicy, bright fruit flavors. Blending from around the state provides layers of fruit characteristics including fresh cherries to richer strawberry pie and raspberry notes.

STRATEGY

Vintage 2009 followed a dry winter. Spring and summer followed with cooler temperatures and no rains. After a cold soaking for up to five days, the grapes were fermented in stainless steel tanks. The wine was aged in French oak for 8-10 months before bottling.

VICTORY

Enticing aromas of strawberry/rhubarb pie, raspberry preserves, and cranberry, with barrel notes of vanilla cream and baking spices. The sweet entry of strawberry and plum fruit flavors is followed by a juicy, boysenberry middle and cherry, cola berry finish. Oak aging contributes a touch of cardamom spice and rounds out the palate. Easy drinking Pinot perfect for any dining occasion or simply enjoy by the glass.

“CARPE PINOT!”

**ALEX COSE,
WINEMAKER**

MARK WEST 2009 PINOT NOIR, CALIFORNIA

APPELLATION: 46% CENTRAL COAST, 11% SAN JOAQUIN DELTA, 7% MENDOCINO, 7% SONOMA, 29% OTHER

OAK: 100% FRENCH, MEDIUM-PLUS & HEAVY TOAST

ANALYSYS: PH 3.75, TA 5.4 G/L **ALCOHOL:** 13.8%

MARK WEST

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