

34°54'N



2005 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PINOT NOIR

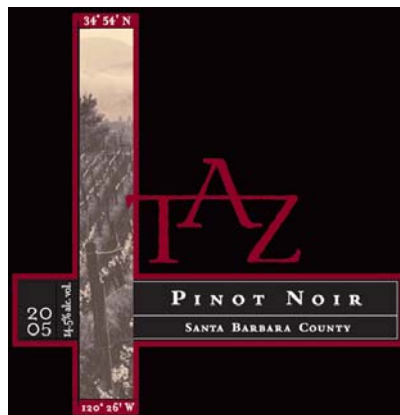
WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

The TAZ Santa Barbara County Pinot Noir is a “best-of-both-worlds” wine. It takes two distinct expressions of Santa Barbara County and blends them into a balanced wine with plenty of nuance.

The first component of the blend comes from our North Canyon Vineyard in the Santa Maria Valley. This vineyard lies at the northern edge of Santa Barbara, butting up to the San Luis Obispo County line. The Pinot Noir from North Canyon is soft and silky with delicate floral notes and red fruit character. The lots from North Canyon Vineyard are complemented by grapes from our Fiddlestix Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, located at the southern end of Santa Barbara County. Fiddlestix Pinot Noir is big and lush; it lends structure and core of dark berry fruit to the blend. I love the juxtaposition of the two regions in this wine.

The 2005 growing season yielded exceptional fruit. I believe that great wines are created in the vineyard. We typically farm less than two tons per acre, and this year was no different. About a quarter of this blend was aged in new French oak, while the rest of the lots went into neutral barrels. I like to let the fruit shine, using just a hint of new oak to spice things up. To me, this wine showcases the true varietal character of Pinot Noir.

-- *Natasha Boffman, Winemaker*



TECHNICAL DATA

BLEND:	100% Pinot Noir
ALCOHOL:	14.5%
HARVEST BRIX:	25
HARVEST DATE:	September 1 - 22, 2005

120°26'W