

TAZ VINEYARDS  
CUYAMA RIVER  
SANTA MARIA VALLEY  
PINOT NOIR 2003



Harvested August 18, 2003

Harvest Brix: 24.3

Ph: 3.61

TA: 0.58g/100ml

Alcohol 14.1%

100% Pinot Noir

One of the best parts of this project is going out and kicking dirt with Bob "Taz" Steinhauer, looking for the best rows in the best individual vineyard blocks. For this Cuyama River Pinot, we selected a few rows out of the 22-acre, 4-mile long North Canyon Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley, working off hunches about slope, soil, and exposure to wind. With Pinot, we don't want deep, rich soils; we want soils that will make the vine struggle. We're also looking for an even profile across our selections. As the season progresses we do a lot of pruning, leaf-pulling and fruit-dropping, looking to dial the character into these vines.

Though the project is an evolution and a learning process, I'm really excited about this first release from the vineyard. The 2003 is true to the variety, and true to Santa Maria—a soft and pretty wine with lots of cinnamon and strawberry notes, supported by fine tannins and the supple texture of French oak. We picked relatively early in 2003, but we had to choose our moment carefully, waiting for that tipping point when the maturity of flavor matched the sugars in the fruit. Pinot Noir is unforgiving. You have to watch it closely.

*Limited Release of 500 cases*

