

TAZ VINEYARDS  
FIDDLESTIX VINEYARD  
SANTA RITA HILLS / SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
PINOT NOIR 2003



Harvested September 2-18, 2003

Harvest Brix: 24.4-25.8

pH: 3.52

TA: 0.64g/100ml

Alcohol 14.5%

100% Pinot Noir

Clonal Selection: 115, 113, 667,  
777, Pommard 4, Pommard 5.

Fiddlestix is what happens when you let a winemaker plant a vineyard: 96 acres of Pinot Noir, separated into 31 blocks, each broken down into a combination of six different clones and five different rootstocks. You could call it a broad palate of colors. At harvest we jump around the blocks, picking small lots, each at the right moment, assembling a diverse mix of individual signatures and statements. In the winery, we put together a blend and complete the picture.

This is an exciting vineyard to work with. Its 700-acre AVA, Santa Rita Hills, has become one of California's sexiest addresses for Pinot Noir. Drive in and you can see why. In the morning there's heavy fog from the Pacific; then, you can practically set your watch by the winds that come in the afternoon. Hence, the window of midday heat is small, keeping vine vigor down, concentrating and deepening the ripeness of the fruit. Pinot Noir from Santa Rita can be powerful, packed with brooding, dark fruits within a sturdy phenolic structure—and TAZ's Fiddlestix is no exception. In 2003 we had some late spring rains, which meant we had to slow down vine growth, training the vine's energy into the fruit. The result is a more elegant Pinot than other vintages, rounded out by the supple influence of 13 months in 50% new French oak. This is still a young vineyard, and it's only starting to reveal the many sides of its personality. It'll be exciting to watch it grow up.

*Limited Release of 1900 cases.*

