

2009 Carneros Estate Pinot Noir

DESCRIPTION

Isabel Mondavi wines are made by Isabel's son, fourth generation winemaker, Rob Mondavi Jr. With Isabel's favorite varietals and wine styles in mind, Rob crafts elegant wines with a refined, lower alcohol, food-friendly approach. Our 2009 Pinot Noir is the first vintage from our Carneros estate and we love the complex expression of Pinot Noir that this vineyard produces.

VINTAGE

For early ripening varieties, such as Pinot Noir, the 2009 harvest could not have been better. A summer of mild, steady weather, allowed us to pick our Pinot Noir absent of complications from Mother Nature. Our estate Pinot Noir benefits from cooler temperatures in Carneros, where summer fog and cool breezes from San Pablo Bay slowly ripen the fruit to optimum maturity and flavor.

WINEMAKING

We had two picking dates in early and mid-September, as the Swan and Dijon clones planted on our estate ripen at different rates. Both lots were fermented in stainless steel using native yeasts and then aged for 10 months in Boutes and Francois Freres French oak barrels (45% new). A rigorous barrel selection created a complex blend with uncompromising quality.

TASTING NOTES

Elegant aromas of violets, cherries and other red fruit layered with a hint of caramel. Fresh herbal notes give the nose added complexity. On the palate, strawberry and cranberry flavors meld with a subtle expression of crème brulee. The wine is medium-bodied in weight and expresses lively acidity and bright cherry flavors on the finish.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS

Our Pinot Noir is an exceptionally versatile wine that pairs well with a range of meals from hearty beef stew to grilled salmon and roasted vegetables. Try this wine with parmesan, asiago or fontina cheeses.

