



# ANCIEN

CARMEL VALLEY - RIVER RANCH

PINOT NOIR



## ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

Sourced from Ed and Camille Penhoet's Carmel Valley property, the River Ranch vines were planted in 1982. Of particular interest, the cuttings were originally sourced from a prestigious vineyard in Burgundy in the '70s and subsequently brought in to California. This is the Mother block for the more recent planting at the Toyon Farm, which forms our designate from that vineyard. It is a sandy soiled site with geology tracing to the meanderings of the Carmel River as well as its proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

## ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

The 2023 growing season was late and very cool. Crop levels were very low, owing to a cold Spring and poor fruit set. Ample Spring rains led to nice balanced growth through the season. While warmer conditions have prevailed in other areas, the coastal areas of California continue to benefit from the maritime influence and moderating influence that it brings. In Carmel Valley, especially, the cooling effect of the Pacific Ocean is literally funneled into the narrow valley. Indeed, it is consistently our coldest, latest *terroir*.

## ABOUT THE WINE...

In typical fashion at Ancien, the grapes are gravity fed to one-ton open top tanks where the punch-downs are done by hand, incorporating "feel" into the extraction equation. Coupled with the warm fermentation, this generous extraction emphasizes the texture and racy spice inherent in the *terroir* of River Ranch. Aging for 11 months in barrel with a single racking carried this wine gently to the bottle. 76 cases produced.

## TASTING NOTES...

A balanced and elegant vintage. Spice, tea, and plum and berry aromas dance atop currants and boysenberry pie. Soft and approachable on the palate, the wine continues with secondary notes of chocolate and black tea that lead to satisfying elegant finish revealing jasmine. The finish is mouthwatering and long with presenting umami, soy, and Asian spice. Planted to the same special cuttings as our block at the Toyon Farm in Carneros, they are a joy to taste side by side, illustrating the profound influence of *terroir*.