



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...

Ample rain brought an end to our five-year drought and the 2017 vintage produced the high quality of fruit that we had enjoyed in the prior seasons. It was an unusually wet year with a mild spring that allowed the vigorous vines to flower extensively. Record-breaking heat in the days leading to harvest fully ripened the grapes, developing sugar and flavor, while cool nights ensured wines would retain mouthwatering acidity. Our harvest wrapped up, with wine aging in barrel and safe from smoke damage, long before the October fires visited Napa. Ultimately, we were gifted a smaller vintage than the originally anticipated and we were very happy with the high quality of the grapes. Deliciously juicy, our wines excited our palates months before bottling!

ABOUT THE WINE...

In typical fashion at Ancien, the grapes are gravity fed to one-ton open top tanks where the punch-downs were done by hand. Coupled with the warm fermentation, the generous extraction emphasizes the texture and racy spice inherent in the terroir of this vineyard. Aging for 11 months in barrel with a single racking carried this wine gently to the bottle. 3 barrels produced.

TASTING NOTES...

This inaugural vintage of Pinot Noir from River Ranch displays a veritable spice rack of notes will enthrall your senses. The wine opens to particularly unctuous mid-palate of orange-spiced tea, cherry pie, plum and cassis. The palate is broad and generously continues to reveal more surprises - fresh herbal notes and hints of red licorice reverberate in the lovely chalky finish.