



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...

We enjoyed consistent weather in 2018, with plenty of rain at the beginning of the year leading into a later start to the growing season, endowing us with an even and plentiful fruit set. This generally dry and cooler vintage free of heat spikes allowed for the grapes to enjoy extensive hang time on the vine, gradually developing excellent flavor and acidity without a single hint of overripeness. Not only was the vintage superb in quality, it gave us an abundance of plump grapes. Juicy and complex, the wines of this vintage are delicious to enjoy in their youth while their acidity and structure promise greatness for long-term cellaring.

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. 97 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

Coming from the mother vines that our section of Toyon Farm is planted to in Carneros, this second vintage from Carmel Valley definitely shows the same strength and complexity this legendary River Ranch selection of Pinot Noir gives shining in both wines. Spice filled and smoothly broad on the palate, this wine greets with notes of currants and boysenberry pie. The opulence continues with secondary notes of chocolate and black tea that lead to satisfying elegant finish revealing jasmine. We recommend enjoying this and comparing it with our Carneros Toyon Farm Pinot Noir from the same vintage. Both wines are drinking wonderfully in their youth and will only get better as they age to reveal the true decadence they have to offer.