



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 2019 growing season provided the third year in a row of generous and well timed winter moisture. The result was very nice growth with well balanced vines free of excess stress. This is what we are always after, a happy vine dedicated to its fruit results in the most flavorful wine in general. We saw few heat spikes but adequate warmth in the season to produce ripe flavored fruit. We consider the 2019 vintage to be an exceptional one with all the makings of wines to be enjoyed at release as well as over the long term. It there was any downside, the crop was on the lower side of yield - so a little less wine to go around!

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.