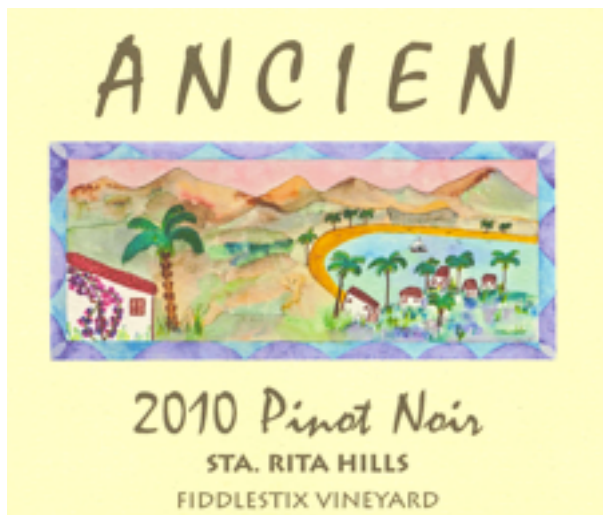


Ancien Wines

2011 Sta Rita Hills Pinot Noir

FIDDLESTIX VINEYARD



ABOUT THE VINEYARD...

The Fiddlestix Vineyard is located in the Sta Rita Hills AVA which straddle the Santa Ynez River as it makes its way to the Pacific Ocean. As a East-West oriented valley, opening its mouth to the cool Pacific breezes, the consistent and cooling marine influence is significant. The vineyard is managed and owned in partnership by Kathy Joseph, who has planted an array of clones and rootstocks on several, varied soils to create a staggering level of diversity from this single vineyard. The remarkably consistent weather, characterized by lower highs and higher lows than our North Coast vineyards, conspires with silica-laden, marine sedimentary soils to make wines of power and exceptional structure. This vintage marks our eight working with Kathy and this remarkable vineyard.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

2011 began cool, with later bud break. Flowering and fruit set was disrupted by heavy and uncharacteristically late rain storms. This limited fruit production considerably resulting in significantly lower yields, sometimes as low as half of typical production. The summer remained cool--one of the coolest on record--pushing the harvest date back further into September and yielding wines with a tremendous, bright acidity. In the end, vineyard management and assiduous farming practices helped to insure that this well-situated vineyard ripened properly, with rich, mouth-filling tannic structure.

ABOUT THE WINE...

The grapes were 100% destemmed into an open top fermenter and cold soaked for 5 days. We utilized a combination of hand punch-downs and a submerged cap device in order to optimally control extraction from the skins. We fermented with a combination of RC212 and Assmannshausen yeasts, with a peak temperature of 94°F. The wine was aged for 17 months in an array of Francois Freres and Remond cooperage, entirely of Bertrange Oak and a majority new. We held the wine in bottle for nearly a year before release. 120 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

This is a bold Pinot Noir, rambunctious in its youth and promising to unfold with grace into its maturity. The nose is densely packed with rich fruits, black cherry, cassis, blackberry, grape blossom, citrus zest, orange blossom, wet slate, cardamom, and blood orange. Intense, fresh fruits lead the palate, settling on the mid-palate with focused, ripe flavors of grape, black cherry, cassis, and currants, intermixed with holiday spice, woody notes, cola, and tobacco notes. Brilliant acidity provides brightness and balance, while structure, always a strong suit for this wine, is emphasized by mouth-filling tannins. The spicy aromatics continue through the long finish. This a wine that will lay down nicely for a decade or longer, filling out the palate with rich, organic, and earthy flavors, while its strong tannins resolve into a silken and even longer palate.

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