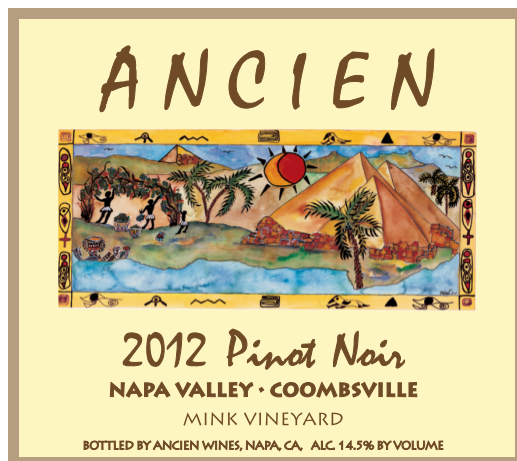


 **Ancien Wines**   
2012 Napa Valley Pinot Noir  
MINK VINEYARD



#### **ABOUT THE VINEYARD...**

The Mink Vineyard is located next door to the winery, in the Coombsville Viticultural Area in the southeastern corner of Napa Valley. Open to the same morning fogs and afternoon breezes that cool Carneros to the west, Coombsville is consistently one of the coolest pockets in Napa. Mink sits inside a small "bowl", allowing cooler air to settle during the evenings, and making Mink's mesoclimate a couple degrees cooler, even, than the surrounding hills. But the real secret to Mink's explosive flavors, smooth, mouth-coating minerality, comes from the soil. Underneath is a layer of compressed volcanic ash, called tufa. The tufa drains the top soils, storing moisture in rich clays underneath. The vines are able, with some work, to grow roots into the tufa layer, accessing moisture during the long, dry growing season. In a typical year, Mink can be practically dry-farmed.

#### **ABOUT THE VINTAGE...**

A cool, consistent, balanced vintage, 2012 made people up and down the wine-producing valleys smile. There was little to no frost through bud break. A mild and dry spring encouraged good fruit set. And the summer saw consistent stretches of sunny days with temperatures peaking in the mid- to low-80's--perfect conditions for ripening. Temperatures remained cool and the rains held off throughout the harvest, allowing the fruit to naturally and evenly ripen, developing good sugar levels and full, rich, ripe tannins.

#### **ABOUT THE WINE...**

The grapes were destemmed into small, one-ton, open-top fermenters, with traditional hand punch downs, and aged the wine in Billon cooperage, a barrel that tends to sit subtly underneath the delicate fruit, lifting aromas without crowding them. The wines were racked once, gently, prior to bottling. Grapes, must, and wines were moved using gravity through to the barrel and using inert gas through racking and bottling. 184 cases produced.

#### **TASTING NOTES...**

This is a Pinot Noir that emphasizes elegance and grace, without sacrificing weight and profundity. A piquant and energetic nose of blueberry, cherries, and huckleberry pie, floats atop dried currant notes, mushrooms, and wet stone. The palate reveals more stoniness rounded with plum, raspberry, chocolate and currant, spiced with notes of pipe tobaccos. As always, the finish is dominated with the fine, chalky and mineral tannins coating the entire palate and lingering long into the finish. A singular California Pinot Noir. Drinks well now and is a Chef's boon companion. Will mature with grace for 8-12 years.