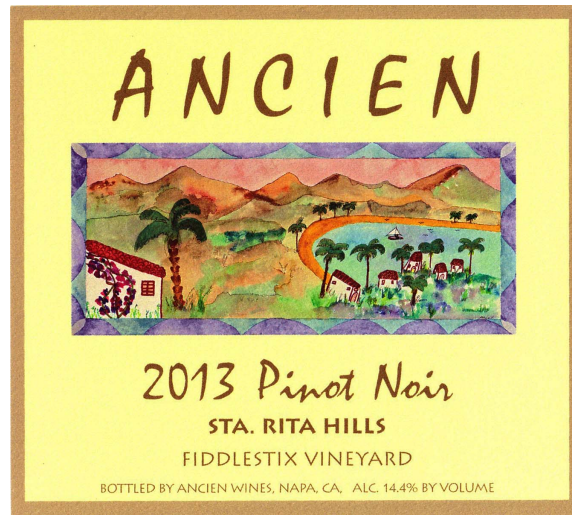




Ancien Wines



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 an 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.

ABOUT THE VINTAGE...

2013 was a season of generous weather. Adequate winter rain and soil moisture ensured for a nice start to the growing season devoid of early frost. Ideal bloom conditions provided for a uniform fruit set. A summer of consistent temperatures without notable extremes kept the vines functioning optimally without undue stress. Late season warmth ensured nice ripe tannin and color development. In summary, this was a wonderfully cooperative vintage.

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 Frères and Remond cooperage, entirely of Bertrange Oak and a majority new. We held the wine in bottle for nearly a year before release. 242 cases produced.

TASTING NOTES...

This is a bold and generous Pinot, rambunctious in its youth with plenty to give over years in the cellar. 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, and the focus settles on ripe flavors of black cherry, cassis, and currants intermixed with holiday spice, cola, and tobacco notes. Brilliant acidity provides brightness and balance while mouth-filling tannins emphasize structure, always a strong suit for this wine. The spicy aromatics continue through the long finish. Cellaring this wine for a decade or beyond will reveal a silky texture hidden beneath layers of strong tannins that dominate its early years.