

Au Bon Climat



2020

Pinot Noir, "Isabelle"

Isabelle is unlike any other Au Bon Climat Pinot Noir. Our top Pinot Noirs prior to making Isabelle in 1995 were all single vineyard wines. Isabelle was the first, top-end Pinot Noir that is a blend from different locations. After the birth of his daughter in 1995, Jim Clendenen wanted to make a special wine in her honor. Isabelle has developed into a unique young woman and her wine is unique for Au Bon Climat. We select the finest barrels from many different vineyards locally and afar. Making the best wine from our best barrels is the goal, so the blend has varied over the years. By choosing only the best lots and blending, the wine is always the top of its class year after year.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
California

VINEYARD:
multiple

VARIETAL:
100% Pinot Noir

COOPERAGE:
22 months 100% new François
Frères French oak

HARVEST: multiple picks

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 7.3 g/L

pH: 3.57

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$65

Tasting Notes

A blend of our top Pinot barrels from different vineyard sources. The Isabelle Pinot is our most highly regarded. It is a bright and effusive wine with tons of aromatic presence and fine balance. Sweet red cherry fruit, orange peel, spice, and dried herbs open first, followed by a host of perfumed floral notes that lead into the mid-palate and finish. Silky and quite elegant, all it really needs time in the bottle to come into its own.

Food Pairings

Match with filet mignon, lamb chops with a red wine reduction sauce, or a classic Beef Bourguignon.

From The Winemaker

For the 2020 we sourced from Bien Nacido and Le Bon Climat (both Santa Maria Valley), Rancho La Cuna and Kick-On (Los Alamos Valley - Santa Barbara County), Sanford & Benedict (Sta. Rita Hills), and Lala Panzi (Russian River Valley). Making the best wine from our best barrels is the goal, so the blend has varied over the years. After tasting the best lots, we go through the barrel selection process. This tasting process takes a few days, after the initial selection, the barrels are reevaluated a few months later just prior to putting Isabelle together.

Au Bon Climat has made Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County for 40 years. Our winemaking philosophy and winemaking practices have changed little over that time. Older equipment has been replaced by newer technologies, but better equipment improved the wines and allowed for gentler processing. We still hand pick and sort heavily in the vineyard. We still use open top fermenters allowing us to "punch down" by hand. Our top Pinot Noirs are never pumped, only moved by gravity. These high end Pinots are aged in new François Frères oak barrels and get all the tender loving care they need. Au Bon Climat Pinot Noir is basically the same since 1982, only better.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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