

Au
Bon
Climat



2021

Pinot Noir, “Isabelle”

Isabelle is unlike any other Au Bon Climat Pinot Noir. Our top Pinot Noirs, prior to making Isabelle in 1994, 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, Jim Clendenen wanted to make a special wine in her honor. Every year since, we select the finest Pinot 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. Even the best vineyards have “off” years. By choosing and blending only the finest lots, the wine is always the top of its class year after year.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
California

VINEYARD:
multiple

VARIETAL:
100% Pinot Noir

COOPERAGE:
20 months 100% new François
Frères French oak

HARVEST: multiple picks in
September 2021

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 5.8 g/L

pH: 3.65

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$65

Tasting Notes

Isabelle represents the finest Pinot Noir lots of the vintage. It is quite complex showing candied raspberry, cherry, blood orange fruit with notes of anise, wet stone and bay leaf joined by hints of baking spice and pastry crust on the palate. Medium-full bodied with a tight structure, this wine will evolve and increase in complexity for years to come.

Food Pairings

In its youth, enjoy with crispy roast duck, lamb chops or pork roast. As it ages, match with Porcini mushroom risotto and wild game.

From The Winemaker

For the 2021 we sourced from Bien Nacido (Santa Maria Valley), Rancho La Cuna and Los Alamos Vineyard (both Los Alamos Valley - Santa Barbara County), Sanford & Benedict (Sta. Rita Hills), and Lala Panzi (Russian River Valley). Handled individually, small lots are kept separate throughout fermentation and aging. 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 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 Older equipment has been replaced by newer technologies, but better equipment improved the wines and allowed for gentler processing.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 and punch down once or twice daily by hand. Our top Pinot Noirs are never pumped, only moved by gravity. The high end Pinots are aged in new François Frères oak barrels and get all the tender loving care they need.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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