

Cima Collina

2010

PINOT NOIR

It is a rare opportunity these days in California to make wine with an “old” Pinot Noir clone. At one time much of California Pinot Noir was produced from “old” clones that had made their way into California via suitcases owned by enthusiastic winemakers and vineyardists. These clones have been replaced over the past 15 years by newer clones that have been very widely planted across the state and with that replanting perhaps we’ve lost a little history and diversity. So it is a great privilege (not to mention fun!) to offer this wine – made entirely from the “Chalone” clone – a suitcase clone brought from France by Dick Graff.

The grapes for this wine were sourced from the Antle Vineyard (aka Pinnaclacitos Chalone), which was originally planted by Dick Graff in 1989. This historic vineyard is a pleasure to behold: it sits in a protected southwest-facing dell overlooking the southern Salinas Valley. The gnarly old vines are surrounded by the striking rock outcroppings of the Pinnacles area makes for a tremendous scene that reminds one of days gone by in California.

3.4 tons were hand-harvested on September 24, 2010. We destemmed the clusters into open-top stainless steel fermenters and punched the cap down by hand throughout the fermentation. After an extended maceration the wine was pressed, settled, then racked to French cooperage and aged for 18 months.

This wine is only now starting to open up upon its release and we anticipate further “blossoming” as it bottle ages. It is rich and spicy with notes of strawberry, cocoa and leather. Enjoy now or lay this wine down for at least 7 more years. Pair with wild mushroom ragout and beef tenderloin, coffee encrusted lamb chops or shitake bread pudding.

Vineyard:
Antle

Appellation:
Chalone

Varietal:
100% Pinot Noir
“Chalone” Clone

Vinification:
Destemmed
Extended Maceration

Barrel Ageing:
18 months

Alcohol:
13.9%

Bottled April 14 2012

Production:
184 cases

Key Words:

Release Date:
May 2013

Suggested Retail:
\$33

Cima Collina Tasting Room
At the Old Del Monte Dairy
19-A East Carmel Valley Road
Carmel Valley, California
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www.cimacollina.com

Open Daily