

Au Bon Climat



2018

Pinot Noir "Larmes de Grappe"

Our Larmes de Grappe (tears of the grape) wines are something special. It doesn't happen every vintage. In fact, there are only four other vintages that have been made since 2001. The grapes need to be perfectly ripe and the stems lignified. Only the best grapes using our best barrels make a few cases of this Pinot Noir when it is warranted. The grapes are from the old vine Pinot Noir from the prestigious Sanford and Benedict Vineyard planted in the 70s. We wait to pick until the stems have lignified and then ferment whole cluster without any destemming

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
Sta. Rita Hills

VINEYARD:
Sanford & Benedict

VARIETAL:
100% Pinot Noir

COOPERAGE:
18 months 100% new François
Frères French oak 350L barrels

HARVEST: September 26, 2018

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

ACIDITY: 6.6 g/L

pH: 3.5

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$100

ACCOLADES

Antonio Galloni
vinous 94
WINE ENTHUSIAST 93
Wine & Spirits 93

"The 2018 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Larmes de Grappe is a classic Jim Clendenen wine. Dark red cherry fruit, spice, anise, orange peel and dried flowers all race out of the glass. Aromatically intense, silky, elegant, and light on it's feet, the 2018 is positively stellar. The Larmes de Grape was done with 100% whole clusters and spent two years in 350-liter barrels, all new."

— ANTONIO GALLONI'S VINOUS

From The Winemaker

We had perfect weather for the entire 2018 harvest. No heat spikes and no rain. We picked our grapes for the Larmes on September 26th, which is normal - if we ever had a normal year. The grapes are from the old vine Pinot Noir from the prestigious Sanford and Benedict Vineyard planted in the 70s. We waited to pick until the stems lignified and then fermented whole cluster without any destemming in a 5-ton open-top fermenter. After 18 months in 350-liter François Frères French oak barrels, we carefully racked the wine and gently fined it using 2 egg whites per barrel, to cut back some of the stem and barrel tannin. Delicious upon release, the wine will evolve and develop for twenty years.

Tasting Notes

The 2018 is all from the prestigious Sanford & Benedict Vineyard. Dark red cherry fruit, plum, spice, anise, orange peel and dried flowers all race out of the glass. Aromatically intense, silky, elegant, and light on it's feet, the 2018 is positively stellar.

Food Pairings

This full-flavored Pinot will stand up to some milder red meat. The most obvious match is grilled salmon with garlic and fresh herbs, but also roast duck / game hens.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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AUBONCLIMAT.COM