

Au Bon Climat



2022

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. Each vintage of "Isabelle" is crafted to taste and is a unique blend every year. By choosing and blending only the finest lots, the wine is consistently remarked as our most elegant and delicate Pinot Noir each year.

AT A GLANCE

APPELLATION:
California

HARVEST: multiple picks in August & September, 2022

VINEYARD:
multiple

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

VARIETAL:
100% Pinot Noir

ACIDITY: 6.2 g/L

COOPERAGE:
24 months 100% new François Frères French oak

pH: 3.67

RESIDUAL SUGAR: <0

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$65

Tasting Notes

The 2022 "Isabelle" Pinot Noir is a complex, layered cuvée, blending the best Pinot Noir barrels from six vineyards. Bright red fruit leads the way, followed by notes of candied cranberry, white pepper, and jasmine. With aeration, hints of moss and nutmeg add an earthy depth. On the palate, red fruit intertwines with roasted cocoa beans and baked vanilla custard, framed by juicy acidity and firm tannins that provide length and elegance. A wine built to age beautifully.

From The Winemaker

The 2022 "Isabelle" Pinot Noir blends fruit from six vineyards across four AVAs, including Bien Nacido, Rancho La Cuna, Los Alamos, Kick On, Talley, and Lala Panzi. Each small lot is fermented and aged separately before undergoing a meticulous barrel selection process, reevaluated over months to craft the final cuvée.

With 40 years of Pinot Noir winemaking in Santa Barbara County, Au Bon Climat remains committed to tradition. Grapes are hand-picked and sorted, fermented in open-top fermenters with daily punch-downs, and gently pressed when dry. Our top Pinot Noirs are aged in new François Frères oak barrels, receiving the utmost care from vineyard to bottle.

Food Pairings

A wine like "Isabelle" shines when paired with classic, balanced dishes that enhance its complexity. Enjoy it with lemon and herb roasted chicken, grilled portobello mushrooms with balsamic glaze, or pan-seared pork tenderloin for a perfect harmony of flavors.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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