

# Au Bon Climat



2023

## Pinot Noir, Rancho la Cuna

Owned by the Clendenen family, Rancho La Cuna Vineyard is located in the heart of the Los Alamos Valley with the vines situated on steep hillsides. It is a small vineyard (about 15 acres) but a significant one. After 10 years of production, our Rancho La Cuna Pinots are showing their maturity. The fruit is distinctive producing contemplative, savory Pinots that have layered complexity. Los Alamos Valley does not have an appellation although it deserves one; consequently the labels carry the designation “Santa Barbara County”.

### AT A GLANCE

**APPELLATION:**  
Santa Barbara County

**VINEYARD:**  
Rancho La Cuna

**VARIETAL:**  
100% Pinot Noir

**COOPERAGE:**  
18 months, 50% new François  
Frères French 350L oak barrels

**HARVEST:** September 19, 2023

**ALCOHOL:** 13.5%

**ACIDITY:** 5.3 g/L

**pH:** 3.65

**RESIDUAL SUGAR:** <0

**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** \$50

## Tasting Notes

True to previous vintages from Rancho La Cuna, this Pinot Noir opens with aromas of eucalyptus and cherry, while hints of dark chocolate and espresso unfold with aeration. The palate reveals notes reminiscent of herbal tea, alongside dark currant and blackberry compote. Soft, oak-driven tannins and firm acidity provide balance and carry the wine through a long, refined finish.

## Food Pairings

This Pinot Noir pairs beautifully with herb-crusted lamb, duck with cherry sauce, or roast pork tenderloin. For vegetarian options, try mushroom risotto or roasted root vegetables. It also complements aged cheeses like Gruyère or Comté.

## From The Winemaker

The vines at Rancho La Cuna are situated on steep hillsides. The Pinot section is planted mainly to clone 115 with a small amount of 828. All of our Pinot Noir is hand-picked, and processed soon after harvest. The grapes arrive at the winery cool, have a slow, cool fermentation, and are manually punched down at least two times per day to gently extract all the “good stuff” from the grapes. After fermentation, the wine is aged in 50% new François Frères French oak barrels for 18 months, then bottled without filtration. Rancho La Cuna Pinots are not simple fruit bombs. They are supple, elegant, and so well balanced that the many varied flavors coexist harmoniously all in one wine. The wine will continue to age gracefully for ten to fifteen years though they have aged well for much longer.

Au Bon Climat & Clendenen Family Vineyards

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