

MERRYVALE

VINEYARDS

2018 Pinot Noir Carneros, Napa Valley



Winemaking

2018 was a remarkable vintage—the long growing season allowed the grapes to achieve full phenolic maturity, while the lack of extreme weather created the ideal conditions for harvesting at peak ripeness. Our 2018 Carneros Pinot Noir is a great representation of the region and the vintage, with fruit coming from four distinctly unique vineyards across the appellation. All of the fruit was hand harvested at night to retain freshness and acidity. After a 5-day cold soak in tank, the wines began native yeast fermentation. Hand punchdowns and minimal pumpovers each day, backing off and pressing at dryness. Spontaneous malolactic fermentation completed in barrel. Classic Burgundian approach.

Vintage

Abundant rains early in the year were followed by lots of filtered light in spring and early summer. Both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late, but under ideal weather conditions, creating plentiful and even fruit set. Summer brought generous sun during the day and cooler marine influences, virtually uninterrupted by major heat spikes. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions for winemakers to allow their fruit to accumulate flavor complexity with gradual increases in sugar levels.

Tasting Notes

Showcasing hallmark dark fruits and bracing acidity, this Pinot Noir is classic Carneros. The complex aromatics have it all—underforest earthiness with a core of black cherry and baking spices, complemented by flinty minerality. Velvety on the palate, the wine is perfectly weighted with incredible natural acidity and a long, evolving finish. One of our favorites from a truly outstanding vintage. Drink now and over the next 10 years.

Appellation:	Carneros, Napa Valley
Blend:	100% Pinot Noir
Vineyards:	Stanly Ranch Estate, RMS Vineyard, Brown Ranch and Lee Vineyard
Cooperage:	30% new French oak barrels for 11 months
Alc:	14.4%
PH:	3.78
TA:	6.1 g/L

EST. 1983

