



PESSAGNO

WINERY

2004 Pinot Noir

Idyll Times Vineyard
San Benito County

Harvest Date

August 24, 2004

Harvest Brix

25.8

Months in Oak

Eleven

Alcohol

14.8%

pH

3.66

TA

6.40 grams/liter

Rs

Dry

70 cases bottled

September 11, 2006

Suggested Retail

\$45.00

THE VINEYARD

Located at the base of the Eastern foothills of San Benito County, Idyll Times Vineyard is sheltered from the winds of “the Mistral” climate; characterized by warm, breezy days and cool nights. The soil is sparse and shallow, restricting root development and canopy growth. The vineyard is comprised of the following three clones of Pinot Noir: La Tache, Dijon 115, and Joseph Swan.

THE VINTAGE

The early part of March surprised us all with 13 consecutive days above 80 °F, causing budbreak to occur early in all varieties. After this heat spell broke, we entered a period of four months of below average temperatures, slowing maturation in the vineyard to a snail’s pace. Mother Nature changed her mind in the first week of September with unseasonably high temperatures for the remainder of the harvest. As a result, harvest was compressed into a few hectic weeks during which everything ripened at the same time.

THE WINEMAKING

Handpicked at a high level of maturity and only as each small block matured, the fruit is fermented separately in small tanks with a minimum of the berries being crushed. After “cold soaking” for upwards of three days on the grape skins, a special yeast known for its bold extraction qualities was added for fermentation. After fermentation was completed the wine was pressed directly into 75% new French oak barrels and matured for eleven months.

TASTING NOTES

This jammy and deeply colored Pinot Noir wine has concentrated aromas of ripe blackberry, clove, and a hint of smoke. The full, lush mouth feel follows layered flavors of black plum and vanilla, reflecting the depth of the fruit and lavish use of oak. Beautifully balanced, it offers good body, rich texture, and a long, lingering finish. Grilled meats and seafood or hearty bistro makes for a perfect match.

Stephen Pessagno, Winemaker