

Barcode

834962000286

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ESSAGNO
WINERY



2008 PINOT NOIR

LUCIA HIGHLANDS VINEYARD

Santa Lucia Highlands – Estate Bottled

THE VINEYARD

Lucia Highland Vineyard is located in the northern region of the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation of Monterey County and just a stone's throw across the street from our winery. Its proximity to the cool maritime influences of the Monterey Bay allows the fruit to ripen slowly, producing world-class Pinot Noir with intense, up-front berry fruit flavors, seductive texture, and silky tannins. The vineyard is trellised to a Vertical Shoot Position (VSP) system that allows maximum sun exposure to the berries during ripening.

THE VINTAGE

After another dry winter, a mid-spring heat spell caused an early bloom. Cool weather, with some occasional frost, resulted in shatter and uneven fruit set. As a result, cluster and berry size was small and yields were low in most varieties. Warmth didn't return to the Santa Lucia Highlands mountain range until late September with harvest commencing in October.

WINEMAKING

The Lucia Highlands Vineyard is comprised of several Dijon clones as well as other proprietary clones that are now co-fermented and barreled separately. The grapes were only lightly crushed into small fermentors, in which nearly 40% of the berries were left whole. A Burgundian yeast culture, known for bold flavors and aromas, as well as native yeast was used for fermentation. Allowed to barrel age "sur lees" and occasionally stirred for eleven months, this wine possesses stylish complexity.

TASTING NOTES

Our fifth release of the Lucia Highlands Vineyard Pinot Noir has again exceeded our expectations. This wine is deeply colored, rich and elegant, offering concentrated layers of cherry, current, and violets and a hint of caramel from oak aging. Stylistically classic, it wine pairs well with Mediterranean cuisine, especially grilled vegetables, seafood, veal, and pork.

Steve Pessagno, Winemaker



Harvest Date

October 11 & 20, 2008

Harvest Brix

26.7

Months in Oak

Eleven

Alcohol

14.8%

pH

3.63

TA

6.65 grams/liter

Rs

Dry

Bottled December 2009

2,624 cases

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AWARDS & ACCOLADES

92 Points – Wine Enthusiast, *Editor's Choice*



“This sturdy, full-bodied Pinot could almost be a Grenache, it’s so big and strong. Yet, strangely, there’s a silky elegance that tells you it’s Santa Lucia-style Pinot. Offers waves of raspberries and cherries and oranges, brightened with zesty acidity. A considerable value given the producer and origin.”

91 Points – Beverage Testing Institute World Wine Championships

Rich ruby color. Subtle aromas of dried cherries, brown butter, and marinated peppers with a round dryish medium body and a savory spiced apple, citrus custard and pink pepper accented finish. A rich, flavorful pinot that will work great with veal chops and braised pork dishes.

