

2004

AUBAINE VINEYARDS

PINOT NOIR

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



- Hand harvested clone 777 on August 19 and clone 667 on August 27, 2004
- Average juice analysis – 24.5 °Brix, 7.50 T.A., 3.40 pH
- 100% destemmed, and crushed into 2.5 and/or 5-ton fermentation tanks
- 12 day *cuvaison*/skin contact: 7 day cold soak @ 55 °F; 5 day fermentation, punched down 3 times per day, peak temperature 85 °F
- Aged in French oak barrels 11 months —20% new *François Frères*, *Sirugue* and *Mercrey*; and 80% once- and twice-used barrels
- Racked three times for clarity
- Wine analysis – 14.2% alcohol, 5.48 T.A., 3.61 pH
- Bottled non-filtered on August 4, 2005

This is the inaugural vintage of Aubaine Vineyards Pinot Noir for *Stephen Ross*. Owned by Bob McHolland (who truly has a desire to create great wine by farming for high quality), the vineyard was planted in 2000 and consists of 15 acres of Pinot Noir clones 667 and 777. It is located at the north of the Santa Maria River Valley near the town of Nipomo and is situated on a southwest-facing hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The climate is very mild and is strongly influenced by regular summertime afternoon cool breezes from the ocean, and the vineyard lies at 34 degrees latitude and therefore receives a lot of intense sunlight from a “directly overhead” sun.

The 2004 season was generally cool and moderate, and due to the early growing season and harvest, the grapes were picked prior to a week of 100 °F days in early September. The vine canopy was open as a result of shoot positioning and cluster thinning; thus the clusters were fully exposed to the morning and afternoon sunlight. Yields were moderate at just under 2 tons per acre. Due to the large number of vines per acre, at 1368, the yield per vine was low at about 3 pounds. These are a few of the key components in making concentrated, high quality wine.

Low yields and large scale garden-like vine tending have produced a very impressive wine. It is very deep in color with a beautiful red berry fruit expression. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this wine is on the palate, rich and voluptuous with lingering berry flavors.

348 cases produced.