

2006

AUBAINE VINEYARDS

PINOT NOIR

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



- Hand harvested on October 4 & 11, 2006
- Dijon clones 667 and 777
- Average juice analysis – 25.8 °Brix, 7.20 T.A., 3.40 pH
- 100% destemmed, and fermented into 5-ton refrigerated open-top tanks
- 15 day *cuvaison*/skin contact; 7 day cold soak @ 56 °F
 - 8 day fermentation, punched down 3 times per day, peak temperature 87 °F
- Aged in French oak barrels 15 months - 25% new *François Frerés*, *Sirugue* and *D'Aquitaine* and 75% once and twice used barrels
- Racked three times for clarity
- Wine analysis – 15.0% alcohol, 5.92 T.A., 3.59 pH
- Bottled non-fined and non-filtered on December 3, 2007

This is the third vintage of Aubaine Vineyards Pinot Noir for *Stephen Ross*. Owned by Bob and Sharon McHolland (who truly have a desire to create great wine by farming for high quality), the vineyard was planted in 2000 and consists of 12 acres of Pinot Noir clones 667 and 777. It is located in the mouth of the Santa Maria River valley near the town of Nipomo and 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. Additionally, the vineyard lies at 34 degrees latitude and receives a lot of bright sunlight.

The 2006 season was very cool leading to a late harvest and long hang-time. The vine canopy was open as a result of shoot positioning and cluster thinning so that the clusters were fully exposed to the morning and afternoon sun. Yields were moderate at 1.4 tons per acre, and berry size was very small which yielded a very concentrated wine.

The cool vintage and low yield resulted in a very aromatic Pinot Noir with good concentration and acidity. As in previous years, this wine has aromas of blueberry and blackberry, and a vibrant ruby color. The palate is elegant and graceful with fine tannins and good acid that will allow aging for several years. It finishes with lingering berry flavors and spicy notes.

276 cases produced