

Surh Luchtel

Premium Handcrafted Wines

2005 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands

Vineyard Location	Santa Lucia Highlands
Harvest Date	10/9/2005
Finished Wine	Alcohol: 14.6% Ph: 3.55 Total Acidity: .64g/100ml
Barrel Type	67% New French Oak, 33% 1 & 2 year old French Oak
Barrel Time	10 months
Bottling Date	August, 2006
Case Production	560 cases
Filtration	None
Fining	None
Release Date	March, 2007

Vineyard

Located about 20 miles south of Salinas, the picturesque Santa Lucia Highlands has become known for Pinot Noir thanks in part due to growers like Gary Pisoni and Gary Franscioni. The eastern facing hillside vineyard usually gets ample morning sun and then the afternoon wind from the Monterey Bay cools the fruit. The combination of its naturally low yield setting and the obsession to quality in the vineyard means fruit of high quality and intensity.

Winemaking

The fruit was carefully sorted, destemmed and crushed with high whole berry content. After cold soaking for 3 days, it was fermented for 9 days with the maximum temperature of 88 degrees in an open top tank and small open top fermentors with the emphasis being gentle. The malolactic fermentation took place in the barrel. The wine was racked once and bottled in August of 2006, unfinned and unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Ripe, assertive, intense, concentrated are the words used described this wine, atypical for Pinot Noir but typical for Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir. Our assessment of the '05 in comparison with the '04 is that '05 is a lot like the '04 with one added dimension – just the right amount of brightness to balance out the richness. It shows ripe cherry, almost Rhône-like nose, along with aromas of spicy new oak, mushroom, and orange rind. The palate is rich and complex. Sweet and fleshy upon opening, it presents a wide range of flavors, from wild berry-black cherry to mushroom, earth, and smoked meat. Bright acidity gives it considerable lift and lovely balance, while the tannins are firm enough to suggest it will improve for a few years in the bottle, if you can resist the temptation of drinking it all now. 560 cases produced with a small number of 3 liters.