

The International Wine Review

JULY 2010

Sierra Madre Vineyard

2008 Pinot Noir Release

Sierra Madre Vineyard is a small family winery that produces first-class Pinot Noirs. Owned and operated by Doug Circle, the estate is situated near the western edge of the Santa Maria Valley in northern Santa Barbara County. It currently consists of 91 acres originally planted in 1971 with a number of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir clones. Chardonnay represents the majority of acres planted. Growing conditions are generally



SIERRA MADRE
Vineyard

cool and favorable to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Vineyard management is in the hands of veteran Rodolfo Callado, and winemaking is directed by the talented winemaker Steve Rasmussen, who is best known for his role in building the wine program at Talley Vineyard. These are the first wines we have tasted from Sierra Madre Vineyard, and we were impressed.

Tasting Notes

2008 ESTATE PINOT NOIR SANTA MARIA VALLEY (\$40) 91

The 2008 Estate Pinot Noir exhibits a medium dark ruby purple hue and aromas of ripe cherry cola with herbal notes. On the palate it is soft and velvet smooth with nicely concentrated fruit flavors and toasted oak. The wine reveals good acidity, round tannins, excellent balance and a long lasting finish.

2008 PINOT NOIR SIERRA MADRE VINEYARD BLOCK 216 SANTA MARIA VALLEY (\$48) 92

Sierra Madre's 2008 Pinot Noir Block 216 is medium ruby in color and is notably more elegant than the regular bottling (which appears to suggest the distinct character of a Pinot Noir made with Pommard clones). The wine is silky smooth on the palate with pure cherry fruit and conveys an attractive delicate character. A superb wine!

Visit the Winery online at www.SierraMadreVineyard.com

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