



CARGASACCHI-JALAMA 375 ml.

2008 - PINOT NOIR - SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

In a vintage characterized by low yields and concentration, this is not your typical fruit bomb. The nose shows tealeaf, dark berry fruit and a little pinot funk. Depending on your mood; the nose can also show a hint of sage or thyme and even violets. The fruit's character is spicy and juicy with mouth coating black cherry, cola and earthy flavors woven together by a core of minerality that is framed by a chewy texture/mouthfeel.

The tannins are big, earthy and soft, showing a characteristic note of white pepper that is typically exhibited by fruit from this vineyard every vintage, along with sweet leather and spicy crimson tea in the long finish. The upfront flavors merge with the undercurrent of structure creating complexity that adds to the wine's enjoyment.

Pinot Noir: Primarily consisting of an alleged cutting smuggled from France of the 828 clone, in the vineyard the vines physical characteristics demonstrated a distinctly different growth habit and physical structure than the claimed parent. When brought to the attention of the nursery and entity responsible for introducing this vine, the parentage was repudiated. Various rumors attributed to the original person responsible for "selecting" the cuttings suggest the actual origins to be a well known vineyard on the mid slope of the Cote de Nuits, to the north of Nuits-Saint-Georges... After 3 vintages of producing some of our favorite wine, these vines are a keeper!

Vintage: 2008 was the second year of drought with only 9 inches of rainfall in northwestern Santa Barbara County. The vines started and ended the season with depleted soil moisture. The canopies were small and the fruit carried by the vines was very light. In addition, frost damage in the spring forced us to drop a portion of crop that resulted from canes that emerged after the frost because of that fruit's delayed flavor development. In the face of adversity, the low yields with tiny cluster and berry size resulted in concentrated, richly flavored wine. The wine's concentration is evident on the palate.

In all its opulent fruit-forward character, flavor and richness, this is a bottle to open and drink by itself. Nevertheless, the structure behind this wine will make you want to pop and pour it with a nice steak, cut of lamb or other rich food. Enjoy!