



2010 Pinot Noir – JT Estate Reserve Clos Pepe Vineyards - Sta. Rita Hills

Vineyard: The grapes for JT Cellars Estate Reserve Pinot Noir come from our private estate block at Clos Pepe Vineyards. These award winning vineyards are located in the heart of the world renowned Santa Rita Hills appellation. This small Pinot Noir vineyard is sited on the alluvial plain on the north side of Highway 246 with gravelly soils of low fertility and vigor, which makes the vines struggle, providing this small-clustered variety sufficient stress to ensure highly concentrated fruit development. At sixteen years old, the vines are mature and vertical trellis and cane pruned. JT's 2010 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir from Clos Pepe Vineyard is powerful, yet elegant and highly refined, reflecting the singularity that clearly defines the best Pinot Noir that California delivers.

Vintage: This remarkable 2010 vintage produced the best Pinot Noir fruit we've seen in 20 years. 2010 was California's coolest summer in two decades and provided the most consistent temperatures that created the smallest and most concentrated Pinot Noir berries we've ever seen. The 2010 growing season commenced with a wet cool winter and typical mild spring, which prompted late bud-break and bloom. The summer was consistently cooler than average, which enabled our crop of small-clustered Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir grapes to ripen slowly and evenly, developing rich, distinctive varietal flavors. Two weeks of very warm temperatures in late September, followed by a cooling period, allowed us to harvest our Pinot Noir fruit at optimum sugar and acid balance and full phenolics maturity on October 1st.

Winemaking: "Our magnificent, opulent and elegant Santa Rita Pinot Noir has arrived," winemaker Jon Theurich, "JT" exclaims. We cold-soaked our grapes for six days at 36 degrees and fermented the wine for 12 days with extended maceration, produced in small batches to carefully control temperature and enhance flavor. Once the primary fermentation was complete we transferred the wine into French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and aging. **Technical Data:** Alcohol 13.5%, Brix 25, pH 3.61, TA .65g/100ml, yeast strains Assmanhausen, 100% malolactic.

Tasting Notes: "Our Pinot Noir from Santa Rita Clos Pepe Vineyards suggests it may become one of the best Pinot Noirs from California in many years," says Winemaker "JT". This bold Pinot is highly unique in that it is a dark garnet in color, and offers very dense and complex aromas that are tightly concentrated on a beam of vivid blackberry, earthy blueberry, spice, mineral, mushroom and cedar notes. These aromas draw you in and lead to deep, rich and brooding fruit. On the palate, the ultra-smooth, thick, chewy dark cherry, blueberry and blackberry fruit core is framed by rich chocolate vanilla, and terroir driven earth elements. Concentrated and layered with the highly distinctive appellation character, this is a remarkably elegant and refined Pinot Noir that finishes warm, balanced and smooth with earthy nuances. The fruit density and structured tannins will enable this wine to age beautifully for up to ten years. "Our hope is that you collect and enjoy this elegant Pinot from the Santa Rita Clos Pepe Vineyard as much as we enjoyed making it." – JT