

Cakebread Cellars



2012 Pinot Noir Carneros, Napa Valley

Vineyards

Our 2012 Carneros Pinot Noir is a blend of grapes from our Foster Road estate vineyard (77%) and an excellent adjacent vineyard (23%), both located in the northern portion of the famed Carneros District in southern Napa Valley. The loam and hillside alluvial soils of these cool-climate sites yield small crops of pinot noir fruit with highly concentrated flavors. Morning fog and cooling afternoon breezes from nearby San Pablo Bay ensure a long growing season and vibrant grape acidity, resulting in rich, beautifully balanced, varietally expressive pinot noirs.

Vintage 2012

Growing conditions in 2012 were ideal, with consistently mild summer weather free of rain or significant heat waves. This allowed for even, uninterrupted ripening and the opportunity to pick our Carneros pinot noir grapes at peak ripeness. The fruit was harvested between September 4th and 20th with a perfect balance of sugar and acidity.

Winemaking

Night harvesting our Carneros pinot noir grapes ensures we fully capture the variety's fresh acidity, ethereal aromas and silky flavors. Our winemaking regimen with pinot noir includes gentle handling of the fruit, fermentation in small stainless steel fermenters, and gentle pumpovers to thoroughly macerate juice and skins. We blend the barrel-aged component wines of our pinot noir after three months to fully integrate flavors and tannins, then age the blended wine another four to eight months in French Burgundian oak barrels (40% new in 2012) selected specifically to highlight the unique character of our Carneros fruit. The 2012 vintage aged for a total of seven months in barrel before being bottled in May, 2013.

Tasting Notes

Our fruit-forward 2012 Carneros Pinot Noir is redolent of pure Bing cherry, red raspberry and blueberry fruit with intriguing hints of violets and cinnamon. Beautifully balanced on the palate, it boasts plush cherry, blackberry, blueberry and plum flavors, finely textured tannins, and a long finish bursting with black cherry and tea-leaf spice notes. Delicious now, this lovely, cool-climate pinot noir will develop gracefully in bottle over the next 3-5 years.

Grape variety: 100% pinot noir

Vineyards: 100% Carneros district

Harvest dates: September 4th – 20th, 2012

Fermentation: small open-top tanks

Barrel aging: 7 months in French oak barrels, 40% new

Alcohol: 13.8%

Total acidity 0.60 g/100 ml

pH: 3.62

Bottled: May, 2013

Winemaker: Julianne Laks