



MIURA

Miura (myu rä) n. 1. Derived from Don Eduardo Miura, the most famous breeder of Spanish fighting bulls; for the Spanish, Miura is a legendary name signifying nobility, boldness and power.

Miura, Pinot Noir, Pisoni Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands

The Vineyard

This property has become the most talked about Pinot Noir property in California for good reason. The wines from this vineyard have an intensity and richness unmatched by any other Pinot Noirs anywhere. The vineyard is tucked among the hills and dry creek beds of the southern part of the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey. It lies in a secluded corner of the hills separating the Salinas Valley from Big Sur and the Monterey Coast. Vines are planted in several small blocks on what appears to be gravel and sand eroded down from the mountains. The blocks are whimsically named after people, objects and family members— “Camper,” “Mommy’s,” “Elias,” to name a few (our grapes come from the “Camper” and “Hermanos” sections. The site is dry, almost arid, but not particularly hot. Most of the vineyard faces east to southeast, capturing more morning than afternoon sun. The intensity with which this vineyard is farmed is unmatched in the Highlands, or anywhere else for that matter. We ferment the Pisoni with a measure of whole bunches in the bottom of the tank, and punch it down by hand. I like the moderate amount of tannin that adding some stems to the fermentation brings—just enough to give some refreshing grip to the mouth feel, and keep the wine from being too soft.

The 2009

The 2009 Pinot Noir crop was about 20% less than normal in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Following two very highly regarded vintages I feel that the 2009 Pisoni is our best effort yet since we started making Pinots from this vineyard in 1999. An even ripening season led to beautifully balanced yet intense wines, more so than in years past. It should also hold well for a number of years.

435 cases produced

The 2010

If the crop had already been small in 2009, in 2010 it was even 10-15% smaller still. This was the type of year where dedicated farming really paid off, and no one is more thorough than the Pisonis. Small crop levels allowed

for an even ripening in spite of the cool weather and the wines are more structured and restrained than typical, which I happen to really like.

408 cases produced

The 2011

While the press will downplay the quality of this vintage, mostly because of how poor it was for Napa Valley Cabernets, the cool summer and harvest allowed us to pick the grapes here 3 weeks later than normal, yet several weeks before the rains came that spelled disaster for later ripening varieties. This led us to produce one of our most complex and profound Pisoni bottlings.

342 cases produced