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BOUCHAINE

N A P A V A L L E Y ♦ C A R N E R O S

2021 Terraces Pinot Noir, Estate Selection

Vineyards

Bouchaine's 100-acre estate vineyard lies on the southern border of Napa Valley's Carneros district, overlooking the San Francisco bay with the financial district in the distance. Fog, wind, and the cold night time temperatures of this unique geographical area lend a distinctive regional identity to our Pinot Noir.

Growing Season

The 2021 growing season will be remembered as a winemaker's vintage. Not too cold, not too hot, not too wet, and no frost. However, we were in the grips of a multiyear drought. While we enjoy dry farming when we have average rainfall, in vintages where the rainfall is half of average (like 2021) we do irrigate to allow for ideal shoot growth and ripening. Bouchaine is lucky to have a huge reservoir so we were able to irrigate early in the season to get our vine canopies full. Drought conditions do have some positives when it comes to winemaking as they bring us smaller berries with beautifully concentrated flavors at harvest. We also lucked out with consistent weather throughout the summer giving us ideal ripening at an even pace. A little sun, a bit of water, and a lot of hard work in the vineyard allowed us to bring in a killer 2021 vintage!

Vinification

All grapes are hand-harvested at night, preserving berry integrity. After the 7-day cold soak, fruit is fermented using native yeast in open-top tanks. Post-fermentation, the wine is drawn off and the must placed into a basket press for gentle pressing. Wines from the 2 terraced vineyard blocks are kept separate and allowed to evolve in French oak barrels, with the most intriguing barrels blended together in summer to showcase the finest expression of our estate terraces.

Tasting Notes

Usually, when someone is labeled "difficult to work with," that's a negative. However, in the case of the Terraces Pinot Noir, being difficult to work with is a bonus. These vines don't grow in highly-manicured, perfectly straight rows. They don't have just a single sun exposure nor is the soil profile uniform throughout the block. There is beauty in the chaos though. All the extra work that goes into these terraced hillsides is well worth it and well rewarded. Not exactly an iron fist in a velvet glove, but more like an iron fist dipped in blackberry jam and cocoa. Difficult to work with . . . but easy to love.

Appellation

Napa Valley, Carneros

Vineyard

Estate

Aging

10 months

Harvest Date

September 10, 2021

Bottling Date

August 16, 2022

Maturation

38% new French oak

PH

3.6

TA

5.7 g/L

RS

0 g/L

Alcohol

14.5%

Production

350 cases (750ml)



1075 BUCHLI STATION ROAD, NAPA, CA 94559 | 800.654.WINE | 707.252.9065 | BOUCHAINE.COM

ESTATE GROWN ♦ SUSTAINABLY FARMED ♦ FAMILY OWNED