

2018 Pinot Noir

100% Artesa Estate Vineyard
Los Carneros, Napa Valley



The 2018 Vintage

The perfect growing season on our Estate, the 2018 vintage is characterized by moderate temperatures throughout the spring and summer that allowed for the ideal growing conditions; consistent and steady. We began harvest on August 21 followed by unseasonably cool weather that allowed for most of the fruit on our Estate to remain on the vine for an additional week or two. This extended hangtime was great for the maturation of flavors and overall quality of the fruit.

Harvest again kicked into full swing in early September and was completed on October 20, about two weeks later than last year. The combination of a perfect growing season and a long harvest allowed for the fruit to demonstrate clean, mature flavors with wonderful balance and acidity. The 2018 wines will show elegantly yet with concentrated flavors that possess so much finesse for years to come.

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Varietal Composition	100% Pinot Noir
Harvest	September 2018
Technical Data	ALC: 14.3% by vol; T= 6.5 G/L; pH = 3.53
Cooperage	100% French Oak, 30% new oak
Production	850 Cases

About The Vineyard

The grapes used to produce this wine were grown in some of the highest hillside blocks on our Estate Vineyard, in Los Carneros, Napa Valley. Our unique terroir provides high drainage capacity and the vines struggle for water and nutrients; as a result, the grapes show immense fruit concentration, and flavor complexity. These vines grow in Haire clay loam soils which produce Pinot Noir with concentrated, bright flavors and supple tannins. Our estate vineyard pinot is sourced from eight unique blocks, planted with Martini, Dijon 667 and 777 clones.

Martini is a clone that is slower to ripen and maintains higher acidity. The fruit makes elegant wines worthy of aging. The 667 clone produces lower yields and smaller clusters that are prone to later ripening. This fruit will provide deep color and structure. The Dijon Clone 777 is the most site dependent and offers small clusters, low-yields and intense color due to the thick skins and higher seed count. The power in the wine can come from this clone's fruit.

Winemaking

The fruit was hand-harvested at night to preserve freshness and fruit integrity, and immediately brought to the winery. About 20% of the overall grapes were fermented "whole cluster"; meaning that in some lots, about 20% of the grapes were put into the fermenters with the rachis. This technique imparts more structure to the mid palate. The remaining lots were de-stemmed, but not crushed, leaving whole berries. Winemaker Ana Diogo-Draper cold soaked the berries, in stainless steel tanks (70%) and Puncheon (30%), for four days – a method which gently extracts color and flavor without harsh tannins.

Afterwards, the grapes were gently brought up to temperature, and 100% native yeast fermented. We punched down the grapes three times a day to extract color and flavor. The free run wine was placed in French oak barrels (30% new) for ten months, where it aged on lees, being racked once prior to bottling. Our Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir is 100% grown, produced and bottled by Artesa.

Tasting Notes

Delicate aromas of plum, cherry, and a hint of classic Carneros rose petals set the tone for this beautiful Estate grown Pinot Noir. Polished flavors of brambleberry, blueberry and lavender, accompanied by a bright acidity, grant the wine a superb balance on the palate. The oak is subtle, with a light vanilla and white pepper notes behind the forward fruit. A classic, elegant Pinot Noir that is true to its unique vineyard site.



The winemaking philosophy at Artesa is based on responsible management of land use for future generations. All Estate Vineyards are Napa Green Land Certified by the Napa Valley Vintners Association. Sustainable agricultural methods are practiced to minimize the impact on the natural biodiversity and ecosystems making the vineyards models for erosion and sediment control. Farming in harmony with nature results in wines that reflect the true expressions of their terroir and variety.