

2011 PINOT NOIR

SIERRA MADRE VINEYARD



HIGHFLYER

At Highflyer, we work with small, family-owned, benchmark vineyards throughout California where terroir and variety are in perfect alignment. We harvest fruit from the Santa Lucia Highlands, Santa Maria Valley, Bennett Valley, Santa Ynez and Napa Valley to produce wines that are thought provoking and our best expression of the varietal. Our name references our winemaker/owner Craig Becker's other great passion in life: aviation. As a private pilot Craig can fly to a distant region, walk the site, meet the vineyard management team to ensure our strict farming protocols are being followed, and return home, all in one day.

VINEYARD

Sierra Madre Vineyard is the most northern and one of the western-most vineyards in the Santa Maria Valley, only 15 miles from the coast, and benefits greatly from its unique marine influence. The soils of Sierra Madre Vineyard are marine by nature, and made up of sandy loam textures. Soil vigor is considered low, which contributes to extensive root development, lower yields and concentrated fruit.

WEATHER

The 2011 growing season was near perfect and grapes were harvested in late September. Sheltered by the mountains, the sunshine was plentiful and strong resulting in balanced amount of fruit on the vine. The long growing season allowed us to develop flavors while retaining the refreshing acids common to the region.

WINEMAKER NOTES

In 2011 we produced 5 barrels of the Highflyer Pinot Noir from Sierra Madre. The wine was aged on lees for 14 months in 30% new French oak and 70% neutral French oak. This great vintage shows richness in depth, focus and purity of Pinot Noir aromatics, with tiers of concentrated black cherry, wild berry, raspberry jam and plum.

Craig Becker, Winemaker / Pilot



APPELLATION - SANTA MARIA VALLEY

BRIX AT HARVEST - 26.2

TA - 7.8 g/l

PH - 3.3

ALCOHOL - 14.9%

PRODUCTION - 319