



2024 PISONI VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

PISONI VINEYARD

We source Pinot Noir from this mountain site through our longtime partnership with the Pisoni family. Tucked into the southern mountains of the Santa Lucia Highlands, the Pisoni family has meticulously farmed this high-elevation site since Gary Pisoni first planted vines in 1982. He was one of the very first to pioneer Pinot Noir in our appellation, believing it had great potential for quality. Here the rugged terrain has thin soils of granite and gravelly loam, with bits of schist and quartz. All this, to produce low yields and tiny clusters that translate into depth and intensity in the wines.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Planted in 1982 and farmed by our longtime friends, the Pisoni family, this iconic vineyard produces some of the Santa Lucia Highlands' most powerful and structured Pinot Noir. Our rows lie in the heart of the vineyard, where the old vines deliver remarkable depth and concentration. The 2024 is dark, full-bodied, and expansive, with black cherry, forest floor, and winter spice forming a savory frame for its concentrated fruit. Balanced acidity keeps the wine lifted, while integrated tannins provide structure and preserve its seamless texture. The previous vintage was ranked #13 among Wine Enthusiast's Top 100 Wines of the Year.

VINTAGE SUMMARY

The 2024 vintage opened with a return to normal winter rainfall at approximately 13 inches. While our region remains inherently cool, the summer brought a run of 85+ degree days compared to especially cool recent vintages like 2023 and 2025. A brief burst of heat around Labor Day initiated harvest in our earlier-ripening blocks, and was followed by a cool, steady Fall that extended hangtime and allowed flavors to deepen. These conditions produced a harvest that unfolded in two distinct phases: early lots offered vibrant, juicy fruit with bright natural acidity, while later lots had developed concentrated flavors and richer textures. Together, these contrasting components created exceptional blending opportunities in the cellar.

Winemaker: Scott Shapley

Appellation: Santa Lucia Highlands

Farming: Sustainable (SIP Certified)

Harvest: September 30, 2024

Clones: Pisoni clone

Oak: 100% French oak, 67% new

Aging: 10 months in barrel

Alcohol: 14.8%

Acid: 3.68 pH

Cases: 304 cases made

2024: 96 pts, *Wine Enthusiast*

2023: #13 Top 100 Wines & 97 pts,
Wine Enthusiast

2022: 97 pts, *Wine Enthusiast*

2021: 96 pts, *Jeb Dunnuck*

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TECH NOTE ARCHIVE

Vintage	Harvest	Days on Skins	Time in Barrel	Oak	Alc.	Bottle Date	Clones	pH	Growing Season
2024	9/30/24	23 days	10 months	French; 67% new (Remond, Billon, Cadus, Latour)	14.8%	8/14/25	Pisoni	3.68	Small berries with thick skins promoted wines with structure and deep character. Harvest unfolded in two phases with early lots bringing vibrant, juicy fruit and bright natural acidity, while later picks developed greater concentration and richer textures.
2023	10/12/23	27 days	10 months	French; 67% new (Francois Frerer, Cadus, Remond, Latour, Damy, Billon)	14.8%	8/9/24	Pisoni	3.68	Generous winter rains replenished vines. Budbreak, bloom, and veraison occurred 2 weeks later than average. Cool and mild spring and summer. Long hangtime with our latest harvest since 1999.
2022	9/7/22	28 days	10 months	French; 57% new (Remond, Francois Frerer, Billon)	14.8%	8/3/23	Pisoni	3.62	Low yields. Warm spring and summer punctuated by a labor day heat wave. Earlier than average harvest was aided by quicker ripening clusters due to low yields.
2021	9/25/21	22 days	11 months	French; 67% new (Remond, Francois Frerer, Latour, Cadus)	14.8%	8/25/22	Pisoni	3.68	Fruit was dropped early in 2020, so vines entered the vintage with little stress. Low rainfall with growing milestones tracking 2-3 weeks behind. Very even temperatures and balanced wines.
2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not produced due to California wildfires.
2019	9/27/19	25 days	10 months	French; 75% new (Remond, Francois Frerer, Ermitage, Latour, Cadus)	14.9%	8/18/20	Pisoni	3.74	Cool temperatures and heavier-than-average fog cover, conditions that encouraged slow, even ripening. A late rise in warmth brought the vines into perfect balance for harvest. Elegant and polished wines.
2018	9/26/18	23 days	10 months	French; 55% new (Remond, Francois Frerer, Ermitage, Seguin Moreau)	14.7%	8/7/19	Pisoni	3.78	Cool spring, slightly less than average rainfall. Perfect fruit set, warm days and cool nights during the summer. A cool fall allowed for a classic harvest with optimal conditions.
2017	9/8/17	25 - 26 days	10 months	French; 60% new (Remond, Ermitage, Francois Frerer, Latour, Cadus, Seguin Moreau)	14.7%	7/12/18	Pisoni	3.69	Above average. winter and spring rain. Dry and cool summer with cool nights. A significant labor day heat wave accelerated harvest. Active canopy management and picking decisions preserved freshness.
2016	9/20/16	24 - 27 days	10 months	French; 70% new (Francois Frerer, Remond, Ermitage, Latour, Cadus, Seguin Moreau)	14.9%	8/8/17	Pisoni	3.78	First non-drought year since 2012. Extended harvest time frame with clean and ripe fruit.
2015	8/27/15	26 days	10 months	French; 75% new (Francois Frerer, Ermitage, Latour, Cadus, Seguin Moreau)	14.6%	8/10/16	Pisoni	3.62	An unusually warm winter spawned an early budbreak 2-weeks ahead of normal. A cold spell during flowering resulted in shatter leading to a light crop with small berries. A dry summer followed with an early harvest.
2014	9/6/14	27 days	11 months	French; 67% new (Francois Frerer, Ermitage, Remond, Latour, Seguin Moreau)	14.6%	August 2015	Pisoni	3.68	A similar season to 2013, with moderate-to-low yields and small, healthy berries that concentrated flavor and structure. An early harvest produced wines with ripe fruit, freshness, and strong aging potential.
2013	9/18/13	26 days	11 months	French; 61% new	14.9%	8/14/14	Pisoni	3.73	Warm and dry conditions led to early flowering and an early harvest with generous yields. The wines boasted ripe fruit with good ageing potential.