

Luli

2021 LULI PINOT NOIR MONTE LINDA VINEYARD

Luli represents a partnership formed by Sara Floyd and the Pisoni Family. Sara Floyd is a Master Sommelier with many years of food and wine experience. The Pisoni Family is known for their eponymous vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands and for Pisoni Estate and Lucia wines.

Deciding they would make a great partnership and noting the shortage of handcrafted wines at reasonable prices, they set out to create a new line of wines for this niche. To achieve this, Floyd and the Pisoni Family focus on purchasing grapes from multiple vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands and the greater Monterey County—California coastal regions excellent for growing cool-climate grapes.

WINEMAKER: Jeff Pisoni

CASES PRODUCED: 94

ALCOHOL: 14.1%

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THE VINTAGE:

After an extremely difficult 2020 growing season and continued below average rainfall throughout Monterey County, the 2021 vintage saw clear skies and moderate temperatures which provided above average yields and near perfect quality. A particularly dry winter provided only 7" of rain to the county in the beginning of the 2021 season (four inches of which fell during a single late January storm). A cold spring and later than average budbreak, beginning at the end of March, slowed early vine growth and required patience in the vineyard. Summer saw an excellent fruit set and cooler than average weather that allowed for slow, methodical ripening and preservation of vital acidity. Cooler temperatures persisted throughout the harvest season as grapes made their way to the winery at a gentle, yet consistent pace.

THE VINEYARD:

Residing high above the Salinas Valley at almost 715 feet in elevation, Monte Linda Vineyard is in the southern portion of the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. This vineyard sits above the morning fog line, allowing for greater sun exposure, while at the same time seeing cooler nighttime temperatures, allowing the vines to rest and achieve a longer growing season. These conditions, along with the vineyard's rocky soils, create deeply textured wines with notable structure.

THE WINEMAKING:

Luli Pinot Noir is made with classic winemaking techniques: Hand-sorting of the fruit, native yeasts for fermentation and production in small lots. The wine was aged in 'neutral' French oak barrels and was not fined or filtered. Each barrel from the Monte Linda Vineyard is hand-selected, with only the best barrels being destined for this wine. The resulting balanced wine is a tribute to this vineyard's success with Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES:

Sporting a youthful, purple-tinged hue, this Pinot Noir packs a bouquet of vibrant aromas of black cherry, plum, and a spicy undertone of vanilla, clove, and cinnamon. On the palate, soft tannin envelops juicy flavors of dark berry compote, while savory notes of baking spice and earthy hints of forest floor create added complexity. The coastal influences of the Santa Lucia Highlands permit long hang-time for each pristine cluster, resulting in optimum berry development and ripeness as well as preservation of age-worthy acidity.