

BIG BASIN

— VINEYARDS —

2012 Alfaro Family Vineyard Pinot Noir

Santa Cruz Mountains



- Harvested: September 27, 2012
- Winemaking: whole berry plus approx. 43% whole cluster, cold soak, hand punched, indigenous yeast
- Barrel aged 16 months in French oak barrels
- Bottled unfinned and unfiltered March, 2014
- Alcohol 13%
- 145 cases produced

Winemaker Notes:

2012 was a return to 'normalcy' after the challenging 2010 and 2011 vintages. The Alfaro Family Vineyard, which barely produced a crop in 2011, had a bountiful harvest combined with great weather during the vintage right through harvest. This wine displays the characteristics which make Pinot Noirs from Corralitos in the Santa Cruz Mountains AVA so special. The sun which bathes this southern facing slope is kept moderated by the cooling air and fog from the Monterey Bay, just a few miles away. This microclimate is ideal for producing Pinot in the New World which expresses transparency to the site with impeccable balance and intensity at naturally low alcohol levels.

The aromatics are distinctly Santa Cruz Mountain Pinot Noir: perfumed asian spices, red/dark berries and crushed flowers. The palate unfolds across the palate with balanced weight and increasing intensity. This wine epitomizes the verve and energy we attempt to transparently capture in our minimalist winemaking approach of native fermentations, hand punch downs and never fining or filtering wines. While drinking surprisingly well for its short time in bottle, we believe this wine will pay large dividends if given time in the cellar to evolve and unfold it's ethereal possibilities. If placed in a blind tasting, we believe this wine would challenge the notion of both New and Old World Pinot Noirs.

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - 92-94 points

"The 2012 Pinot Noir Alfaro Family Vineyard is laced with expressive red berries, mint, crushed rose petals and fennel. Delicate, perfumed and medium in body, the 2012 impresses for its fabulous overall balance and class. The stems need time to integrate, but this is a gorgeous wine."

Jeb Dunnuck, *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate* - 93 points

"Looking at Bradley's Pinot Noirs, the 2012 Pinot Noir Alfaro Family Vineyard is a smoking effort. Spice, pepper and underbrush are supported by plenty of spice-laced cherry and framboise, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, excellent overall balanced and notable purity of fruit. Showing some tannic grip on the finish, it should evolve nicely over the coming 7-8 years."

830 Memory Lane • Boulder Creek • California • 95006

831-621-8028

information@BigBasinVineyards.com