



# Testarossa Vineyards

LOS GATOS • CALIFORNIA

## 2005 Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir

**92**  
points

A best barrels blend of the winery's various vineyards, which are numerous throughout California, Niclaire shows a balance and elegance that prove Pinot doesn't have to come from a single vineyard to be great. The '05 is a delicious wine, soft and gentle and rich in flavor, yet dry and balanced. It fills the mouth with cherry pie, cassis, cola, Asian spice and smoky oak flavors that last long on the finish. This is a real crowd-pleaser.

*Wine Enthusiast - September 2007*

**92**  
points

Medium ruby color; earthy, cherry aromas; rich, bright cherry flavors, some spicy and sweet oak notes; good structure and balance; long finish. Rich, complex and spicy, this Pinot is a great example of how good a regional blend can be.

*Pinot Report - December 2007*

2004

**91**  
points

Sweet and keenly defined cherry-like fruit is teamed with a full measure of very rich oak first in the nose and the again in the ample flavors of this rounded and somewhat fleshy rendition. Unstinting fruit leads the way at the end as it did at the start, and the wine's fine sense of overall balance is never threatened.

*Connoisseurs' Guide - September 2006*

**92**  
points

Medium ruby color; spicy, earthy cherry aromas; rich and ripe with bright cherry fruit, spicy and earthy notes; silky texture; good structure and balance; long finish. Bright and spicy, this is a delicious Pinot for the table.

*Pinot Report - April 2007*

2002

- 92 points *PinotReport - November 2004*
- 91 points *California Grapevine - August 2004*
- 91 points *Connoisseurs' Guide - November 2004*

2001

- 93 points *Wine Spectator - April 2004*
- 93 points *Restaurant Wine - January 2004*
- 90 points *PinotReport - April 2004*

2000

- 91 points *Connoisseurs' Guide - November 2002*
- 91 points *Wine Enthusiast - February 2003*

1999

- 92 points *Wine Advocate - June 2002*
- 91 points *Wine Spectator - March 2002*

1998

- 94 points *Wine Enthusiast - December 2001*
- 91 points *Wine Advocate - June 2002*

1997

- 91 points *Wine Enthusiast - October 2000*



Passion in Every Glass!

# 2005 Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir

## Tasting notes from winemaker Bill Brosseau:

Dark red color. Being a blend of our top barrels in the winery, this Pinot has it all; spice, fruit, richness, silkyness, and concentration. Black pepper, cloves, cherries, anise, and vanilla bean are the predominant aromas followed by I'm sure, hundreds of other subtle nuances. Upon taste, this Pinot is silky and plush, brimming with cherries and black pepper. This Pinot will continue to open up and gain complexities with time. This wine should age well for up to 10 years or more.

## What is Testarossa's Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir?

Cuvee Niclaire is named for Nick and Claire Jensen, the children of winery founders Rob and Diana Jensen. Made from only our best seven to ten barrels each year, this cuvee (blend) is our most prestigious reserve-level Pinot Noir, marrying complementary rich flavors and aromas from our multiple cool-climate California vineyards.

## Flavor Profiles: Cuvee Niclaire Pinot Noir

Silk, balance, elegance, rich fruit, and "another glass please" are what Cuvee Niclaire is all about. Spicy rich cherry characteristics from Santa Barbara County combine with red plum, black cherry, herb and mineral notes from our Monterey County vineyards to create layers of complexity in the glass and a symphony of flavors on the palate.

## Testarossa's Style:

### Complexity, Balance, and Silky Texture

Testarossa's "house style" is to create wines of uncommon complexity for you to enjoy, while maintaining the beautiful balance of natural wine flavors, hints of toasty new oak, a backbone of natural acidity, and silky smooth texture that make our wines feel as good as they taste.

## Testarossa's Special Pinot Noir Winemaking Techniques

It all starts in the vineyard where our winemaker, Bill Brosseau, works with our growers to balance the vines so they produce rich, flavorful, and nutritionally healthy fruit, without over or under stressing the vines. All of the fruit is carefully hand sorted, and a gravity flow process is used throughout fermentation. In the cellar we do an extended pre-fermentation cold-soak, and then use a special strain of yeast in our small custom designed 5-ton stainless steel fermentors.

Vineyards	Bien Nacido, Garys', Pisoni, Rosella's, Sleepy Hollow
Appellations	Santa Maria Valley, Santa Lucia Highlands
Years planted	1973 through 1999
Average yield	2.8 tons per acre
Harvest	2005
Average sugar	26.2
Average total acidity	7.2g/l
Average pH	3.45
Dates harvested	9/27 - 10/17/2005
<b>Bottle:</b>	
Alcohol	14.8%
Total acidity	6.5g/l
pH	3.53
Bottling date	12/12/2006
Time in oak	13 months
Percent new oak	85%
Production	195 cases
Suggested retail price	\$75/bottle
Opt. time for consumption	2007-2017

## Unique Characteristics of the 2005 Vintage

The long, cool, and wet spring of 2005 led to a slow start of the grape-growing season. Spring and summer temperatures across the state were average to below normal. Given the warm temperatures in 2004, grape fruitfulness for 2005 was above normal, leading to higher potential yields. The grapes ripened slowly during the mild summer and fall (up to four weeks later than in 2004), resulting in wines with concentrated flavors and crisp acidity.

300-A College Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95030  
phone 408.354.6150  
fax 408.354.8250

wine@testarossa.com  
testarossa.com  
Tasting Room Open  
11am to 5pm Daily