



2011 PINOT NOIR • PISONI VINEYARD

THE LABEL

For two decades, Testarossa has been specializing in small lot, vineyard-centric Pinot Noir from the state's best growers.

THE PLACE

Owned by the Pisoni Family and deemed the Grand Cru site of the Santa Lucia Highlands

THE WINE

Layered with red fruits and spice, this wine promises to open nicely and gain richness over many years to come.

Testarossa has had a longterm relationship with Gary and the Pisoni Family making the first vintage of Testarossa Pisoni Vineyard in 1997. Working closely with winemaker Bill Brosseau and under the leadership of Mark Pisoni, vineyard management is meticulous. All of the work is done by hand by a long-time, permanent crew. Every decision implements sustainable farming practices and long-term considerations. This commitment, combined with the rocky soils and cold Monterey Bay weather, produce serious and compelling wines. This vineyard is at 1200 ft. elevation, one of the highest vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands.

The 2011 vintage was very cool and wet in the Highlands; yields were down but careful farming provided a small crop of focused, intense Pinot fruit. The Pinot Noir harvest at Pisoni took place on September 20 and 28, 2011.

Upon arrival at the winery, the fruit was carefully hand sorted, de-stemmed and allowed an extended cold soak. A gentle gravity flow process is used throughout the winery. The whole berries went through primary fermentation in our custom open top fermenters. The free run wine was then racked into French oak, of which fifty percent was new. Secondary malolactic conversion occurred naturally. The wine was allowed ten months of barrel aging. Only six barrels were produced.

ACCOLADES

94 Points - The Wine Enthusiast

93 Points - The Wine Advocate

"A step up on the richness scale, the 2011 Pisoni Vineyard displays the richness and depth of the terroir nicely. Loaded with crushed berry fruit, wild herb, underbrush and forest floor nuances, this medium to full bodied, seamless and lively effort has a core of sweet fruit and beautiful length through the finish. It should have 4-6 years of prime drinking, if not more. Drink now through 2019."

- Jeb Dunnuck

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"Dark red color. Brilliant notes of red cherry, cloves, cinnamon, pomegranate, and strawberry. Upon taste, the flavor profile is layered with red fruits and spice. The cool vintage is accentuated by focused tannins and bright acidity. While youthful now, this wine promises to open nicely and gain richness over many years to come. Drink now through 2021."

- Bill Brosseau

Winegrowing
Appellation: Santa Lucia Highlands
Vineyard: Pisoni
Soil: Porous, well-drained shaly loam

Winemaking
Alcohol: 14.3%
Acidity: 5.57 g/L pH: 3.91
Cooperage: 100% French Oak, 55% New

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