



2010 PINOT NOIR • ROSELLA'S 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

Rosella's, in the Santa Lucia Highlands, is owned and farmed by well-known grower Gary Francioni.

THE WINE

Elegant cherry, plum, and spice with. Racy acidity keeps the wine bright and food friendly.

Rosella's Vineyard is one of the most renowned estates in the Santa Lucia Highlands, occupying an east facing slope that rises from 200 feet to 500 feet. It is owned by Gary and Rosella Francioni. Originally planted in 1999, Rosella's has forty acres of "Pisoni clone" Pinot Noir. The property's close proximity to Monterey Bay makes for a very cool climate, with one of California's longest growing seasons. The resulting slow, gentle ripening allows for full flavor development on the vine. Two acres of Pinot Noir at Rosella's are allocated annually to Testarossa.

This 2010 release marks the ninth vintage in Testarossa's close relationship with this famous vineyard. Thanks to our long track record, winemaker Bill Brosseau is allowed substantial input on the viticultural practices in the blocks destined for Testarossa - always striving to exhibit the individual property's special sense of place.

The 2010 vintage was an exceptionally cool year in the Highlands, providing a small crop of focused, intense Pinot fruit. The Pinot Noir harvest at Rosella's took place on October 8.

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 forty-two percent was new. Secondary malolactic conversion occurred naturally. The wine was allowed ten months of barrel aging. Only 288 cases were produced.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

"Given our long relationship with grower Gary Francioni, Rosella's is, vintage to vintage, one of our most interesting and sought-after Pinots. After ten years, we have a good idea of the right vinification and cooperage matches for the fruit from here. The result is a deeply-layered wine, both elegant and ageworthy. It will complement a wide variety of dishes - grilled salmon with mushroom risotto is a natural."

- Bill Brosseau

ACCOLADES

94 Points

"The 2010 Pinot Noir Rosella's Vineyard wraps around the palate with juicy dark berries, smoke and tobacco. Although the fruit is bright, the Rosella's has some darker tones that aren't found in all of the wines. Layers of fruit build to the implosive, mineral-drenched finish. This is another impressive showing."

- Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, August 2012

Winegrowing
Appellation: Santa Lucia Highlands
Vineyard: Rosella's
Soil: Porous, well-drained shaly loam

Winemaking
Alcohol: 14.5%
Acidity: 5.63 g/L pH: 3.64
Cooperage: 100% French Oak, 42% New

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