



TECHNICAL

Appellation: Santa Maria Valley: 86%
Rancho Real, 14% Garey Vineyard

Winemakers: Chrissy Wittmann &
Todd Ricard

Blend Composition:
100% Pinot Noir

Barrel Composition:
100% barrel aged
40% new French oak

Wine Chemistry:
TA: 5.37g/L
pH: 3.6
Alc: 14.38% by volume
RS: 1.3g/L
Incoming Brix: 24.5°–26°

WILD HORSE Cheval Sauvage

2013 PINOT NOIR

Santa Maria Valley

In just over 30 years, Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards has grown from humble beginnings to take its place as one of the Central Coast's leading premium winemakers. We pride ourselves in sourcing our grapes from the best regions and vineyards within the Central Coast.

THE VINEYARDS

Sourced from two top vineyards in Santa Maria Valley: Garey and Rancho Real. Garey Vineyard is well known for Pinot Noir quality and low yields. Rancho Real is unique for its sandy soils and southwest-facing hills. It is a difficult place to cultivate grapes with lots of wind and steep, sandy slopes, but "difficult" often turns out to mean beautiful, and this fruit is just that.

VINTAGE

After a warm winter, the 2013 season in the Central Coast began with an early bud break. The season continued with perfect conditions. Fruit set was great with an average crop load. Ample ripening time produced a beautiful variety of aromas and flavors in the grapes. Harvest arrived early with an even flow of fruit into the winery, plenty of cold-soak and skin-contact time, and slightly more time in the barrels.

WINEMAKING

In September, the Pinot Noir grapes were handpicked and delivered to the winery early in the morning. Upon arrival, the grapes were gently destemmed and placed into small open-top fermenters and allowed to cold soak and extract color for three days. The must was punched down two times per day during primary fermentation. Each lot spent 10 days on skins to maximize extraction, achieve softer tannins, and stabilize color. Only 100% French oak barrels, 40% new, were used for this Pinot Noir. The wine was aged 15 months before preparation for bottling.

WINEMAKER NOTES

In classic Cheval style, this wine is terroir driven with earthy-spicy aromas and notes of strawberry, rhubarb, and dark cherry that are pleasing to the senses. The palate opens with minerality and earth. The mid-palate is elegantly structured and balanced with flavors of bright red fruit and spice. The finish is long and soft with spicy red fruit and hints of vanilla and smoke. This wine is a perfect pairing with a fennel and garlic roasted pork loin, grilled salmon, or tea-smoked duck.

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