

TRUCHARD VINEYARDS



1996 Pinot Noir

- Vintage:** 1996 was a warmer vintage, which brought the fruit to ripeness more quickly than in previous years. Nevertheless, the early harvest resulted in a wine with complex aromas, rich flavors, and a powerful palate.
- Vineyard:** Four separate clonal selections of Pinot Noir grow on the Truchard Estate Vineyard. Two "Martini" clones, the "Pommard" clone - a recent import from France, and the "Swan" clone. Each selection provides a unique element of aromatic fruit, spice, and texture to the blend. The vines range from 6 - 12 years in age. They are planted in several select sites that take full advantage of the thin soils, rolling hills, and cooler temperatures - factors which combine to make the Carneros region ideal for producing Pinot Noir.
- Harvest:** August 29 - September 6 • 24.1 °Brix • 3.56 pH • 7.6 g/l TA
- Winemaking:** All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed into open top fermenters with approximately 20% whole berries. Each lot was inoculated with Assmannhausen yeast, after "cold soaking" for several days. Fermentations were punched down twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 92° F. After 7-10 days of maceration the lots were pressed, quickly settled in tanks, then put directly to barrel. This wine was aged for 10 months in French oak (33% new), and bottled in August of 1997. It is ready for immediate drinking, but has the structure and intensity to improve with time in the cellar.
- Wine Analysis:** 13.5 % alcohol • 3.65 pH • 5.8 g/l TA
- Tasting Notes:** Elegant aromas of cranberry, strawberry, and smoky cherry, with hints of orange peel and sweet tobacco. The palate is "soft as silk": layered with jammy red fruits; spiced with tea, vanilla, and some earthiness; while finishing with balanced acidity and subtle tannins, which focus as well as prolong the flavors.
- Release date:** June 1, 1998
Cases Produced: 1719 cases
Bottle Price: \$25.00

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