

2009 PINOT NOIR

SIERRA MADRE VINEYARD



HIGHFLYER

At Highflyer, we work with small, family-owned, benchmark vineyards throughout California where terroir and varietal are in perfect alignment. We harvest fruit from the Santa Lucia Highlands, Santa Maria Valley, Bennett Valley, Santa Ynez and Napa Valley to produce wines that are thought provoking, varietally and regionally accurate and delicious. Our name references our winemaker/owner Craig Becker's other great passion in life: aviation. As a private pilot Craig can fly to distant vineyards, walk the site, meet with the vineyard management team and return home, all in one day.

VINEYARD

Sierra Madre Vineyard is the most northern and one of the westernmost vineyards in the Santa Maria Valley, only 15 miles from the coast, and benefits greatly from its unique marine influence. The soils of Sierra Madre Vineyard are marine by nature, and made up of sandy to sandy-loam textures. Soil vigor is considered low, which contributes to extensive root development, lower yields and concentrated fruit.

WEATHER

The 2009 vintage had a smooth start without serious frosts or turbulent weather. The fruit is rich in flavor and has an incredible balance of acids and tannin. Temperatures in early August were above average with two heat spikes that increased sugar levels and ripeness in the young vineyard. Perfect weather followed, allowing us to develop flavors while retaining the refreshing acids common to the region.

WINEMAKER NOTES

In 2009 we produced only 9 barrels of Highflyer Pinot Noir from Sierra Madre Vineyards. The wines are aged for 11 months in 100% French oak, 20% of which were new. This vintage shows richness in depth, focus and purity of Pinot Noir aromatics, with tiers of concentrated black cherry, wild berry, raspberry jam and plum. Fleshy and full-bodied, ending with firm, yet supple tannins.

Craig Becker, Winemaker / Pilot



APPELLATION: SANTA MARIA VALLEY

BRIX AT HARVEST:

TA: 6.8 G/L

PH: 3.75

ALCOHOL: 14.6%

PRODUCTION: 225 CASES