



2007 CLOS PEPE ESTATE PINOT NOIR

430 cases produced, 13.9% alcohol

91 Points Burghound. Primary cherry, dried strawberry, raspberry fruit is still hanging on to its primary and juicy nature three years after bottling. This is a lovely indication that this wine has a very long life ahead of it in the cellar and at the table. From the greatest vintage in the short history of the Santa Rita Hills AVA—the wine shows balance and stuffing from the vintage as well as precision in both viticulture and cellar practices. The bright red fruits knit with an emerging loamy minerality that speaks volumes of a near-perfect vintage. My feeling is that this wine, even though still a little showy, will be slightly ‘dumb’ until around 2012 when it will open up into an early drinking window. Patience with this one! It wants you to drink and love it, but its not really ready to strut its stuff fully. Waiting a few more years on this one should really pay back the patience you exhibit. The earth is emerging behind all that primary fruit, and if you have to drink this one early, think about venison, partridge, guinea fowl, Epoisses cheese, or anything with some butter and Chanterelle mushrooms. Best 2012-2019 ~ \$54

THE CLOS PEPE PHILOSOPHY

“We strive to produce wines that represent a time and a place. In a landscape where critics heap praise on ‘heavy metal’ wines more akin to fortified wine than a beverage for table, we believe that wine should integrate into a meal—we hope our customers discuss the flavors of wine and food and how they combine to make an experience. Great craft impresses not with an insistence that it be the sole focus of a room, but instead by its ability to integrate. I like to make wines that tell a story: a story of wind, fog, sunshine and the hard work of our crew.

This vineyard has as much potential for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir as we are willing to imagine and draw from it with passion and labor. In this sense I want the wines to be ‘jazz’ over ‘heavy metal’--a reflection of craft embedded in an ever-changing environment instead of a homogenized attempt to kowtow to the gods of concentration.” --Wes Hagen

“..the name Clos Pepe Vineyard on a bottle has become synonymous with quality. Think California Grand Cru quality.”



PinotFile

Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County, California

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