

2010 CLOS PEPE ESTATE PINOT NOIR

'VIGNERON SELECT'

Winemaking philosophy: Panel of winemakers, owner, sommelier and intern taste every barrel blind and put together a blend that is traditionally a bit bigger, chewier and oakier than the normal bottling of pinot noir.

70 cases produced • Drinking window 2015-2019



COLOR: Dense, shadowy garnet with a royal-purple edge.

NOSE: Same ultra-ripe fruit as in the regular bottling, but more wood-driven edges of leather, spice and forest floor promise that this wine will never be simple, light and easy. A young wine showing this level of complexity in the mouth makes me wonder how it will age. Could be very special. Hard to stay away from in its current showy, winking state.

MOUTH: A typically ripe and rich Pinot with amazingly lush, earthy, leathery, complex and spicy aromatics. Rich, balanced and fairly monumental levels of flavor, extract and structure —surprisingly disparate in mouth and nose — it is a vintage of extremes. Very cool, long hang time and a heat spike at the end to provide concentration.

AGING POTENTIAL: Built for 4-7 years of age in this vintage, but may surprise.

VINTAGE: Big, bold, complex and primary. If the alcohol stays in balance, this wine may last for a decade or more, but I am a bit suspicious of the elevated ripeness.

PICKED: October 7-12, 2010.

CHEMISTRY: 14.6% alcohol • 3.50 pH • 6.8 g/l total acidity, full ML+

THE CLOS PEPE PHILOSOPHY

"We strive to produce wines that represent a time and a place. Great craft, whether painted, played or fermented, 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 a crew's attempts at perfection. 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

