



2009 Pelio Vineyard Pinot Noir

Pelien Wines

This small vineyard is visible from my house, and it is literally the first thing I see each morning when I pull up the shade, and the last vineyard I see at sunset from the dining room table. So, it is a piece of very good fortune to have the opportunity to produce wine from it.

Pelio sits just eight miles off the ocean, along a secondary ridge, at elevations of 800 to 1,000 feet above Carmel Valley. Due to the fog, wind, and generally cool weather, fruit can be difficult to set, and yields are often miniscule. The vines are quite stressed owing to a pure base of uplifted seafloor, or chalk rock- sandstone, with only a marginal amount of soil on the top. Aiding the cause of fruit maturity, during the core months of summer, is a seasonal inversion layer which helps to retain some of the previous day's warmth overnight, advancing acidity respiration and ripening the skins to just the right degree.

There are two sections planted to Pinot Noir. Both face west-southwest, with the primary one set into a cup-like, terraced bowl. Pelio Vineyard is planted to several clones, and our 2009 version is composed from Pommard 5 (approx. 33%), as well as equal amounts of clones 667 and 777 (about 33% each).

The 2009 Pelio Vineyard' Pinot Noir presents intense aromas of dark cherries and spiced plums. The flavors reflect those same tones overall, but have the added dimensions of Pelio's characteristic minerally, terroir note, along with some vanillin and a touch of smokiness from the barrels. This wine is showing well now, but will certainly reward short to medium term cellaring.

Harvested October 10th, 2009 24.3 brix (average) at harvest

A total of 2.07 tons of three mixed clones: 667, 777 and the Pommard 5, was hand-picked and sorted, destemmed, and fermented in two small lots. The wine remained on its lees, unracked, until blending in late August. It was minimally handled throughout its élevage, received neither fining nor filtration.

VINTAGE

2009

VARIETAL

Pinot Noir

BARREL AGING

11+ months

bottled December 15th, 2010

COOPERAGE

40% new Cadus French oak barrels

PRODUCTION

122 cases

COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir