MORGAN

2024 Tondré Grapefield Pinot Noir

PLACE

Located in the well-drained foothills above the Salinas Valley, the Santa Lucia Highlands Appellation is California's most distinctive region for growing terroir-driven wines. Strong afternoon winds and coastal fog originating from nearby Monterey Bay flow through the AVA, resulting in one of the longest growing seasons in North America.

Tondré Alarid and son Joe Alarid, both steeped in California's agricultural history, planted Tondré Grapefield in 1997. Exposed southeast facing slopes, strong marine influence, and well-draining glacial soils are the recipe for ultra-premium fruit. Tondré Grapefield is SIP Certified, underlining the Alarids' commitment to sustainable farming practices.

VINTAGE

The 2024 growing season began with a wet winter that transitioned into a cool and windy spring. These conditions, particularly during May flowering, led to below-average fruit set and ultimately yields down approximately 10% from average. Summer brought abundant sunshine and less coastal fog than usual, yet moderate temperatures allowed ripening to progress uniformly. Though predictions pointed to an early start, extended hang times resulted in a classically timed mid-September harvest that proceeded at a steady pace.

WINE

The grapes were completely destemmed after hand sorting. Gentle punch downs produced a wine with supple texture and soft tannins. The wine was transferred to 30% new French oak barrels for malo-lactic fermentation and 10 months of aging.

On the nose, strawberries are highlighted by thyme and toasty oak. Flavors of cherry cola, pomegranate, and hibiscus are framed by a medium-full body with soft tannins, making this wine a perfect pairing for duck breast or salmon.

APPELLATION:	Santa Lucia Highlands
VINEYARD:	Tondré Grapefield
CLONES:	115
SOIL:	Sandy Chualar Loam (Granitic)
CLIMATE:	Cool, Region I + (UCD)
COOPERAGE:	10 months in French Oak, 30% new

ALCOHOL:	13.3%	PRODUCTION:	75 cases
ACIDITY:	6.0 g/l	RETAIL PRICE:	$75.00
pH:	3.49		

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