

Belle Glos Pinot Noir

2008

**LAS ALTURAS VINEYARD
SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS
MONTEREY COUNTY**

Located in one of the highest-plantable sites in the Santa Lucia Highlands of Monterey County, this pristine bench offers the Las Alturas Vineyard cool, coastal days with consistent sunshine and a foundation of Gloria sandy loam soil. The high elevation, up to 1200 feet, and southern locale of Las Alturas Vineyard is slightly



warmer by day and cooler by night with abundant sunshine and less wind than the northern portion of the appellation. All of these favorable conditions work to enhance the phenolic profile of each berry. When planting this vineyard, various Pinot Noir clones and rootstocks were matched to the most fitting soil types and slopes. Las Alturas is unique in its abundance of sun, wind, and its cool coastal temperature — this results in low yields and thicker skins which in turn make dark, rich and powerful wines.

The 2008 vintage began as most do in Santa Lucia Highlands...dry, windy and cool. It was a fantastic growing season with very gradual trends in temperature, resulting in long hang time and intense development of flavors and phenols within the fruit. As farmers, we want control and 2008 was a great year to take advantage of the control that Mother Nature handed us. Low yields, small berries, long hang time, and a dry fall season. As a winemaker, it was a year we couldn't have asked for more favorable conditions.

In the winery, the clusters were de-stemmed and the must underwent a cold soak. Fermentation began with the inoculation of yeast strains matched to each lot of grapes. Our maceration process during fermentation consisted of a combination of punch-down and pump-over techniques, each day the techniques would be reassessed to ensure that we were riding the line between over extraction and under extraction. The wine was aged in French oak for nine months (60 percent new) adding a layer of spice and providing elegance and finesse, while preserving the powerful fruit flavors this site offers.

Tasting notes: Very dark burgundy; aromas of black cherry and tilled earth are abundant and a delight for the senses. The palette is full, chewy and rich. It coats the mouth with flavors of berry pie filling, sweet spices, and plum, all encased by a complex textural structure that leads to an elegantly supple finish that calls for another sip.

Joseph J. Wagner
Vineyardist/ Winemaker

Release date: February 1, 2010

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