

Buena Vista

Est. 1857 | CARNEROS



2006 Pinot Noir Ramal Vineyard Estate Vineyard Series

OVERVIEW

As California's first premium winery, the focus of Buena Vista Carneros continues to turn to our remarkable 564-acre Estate vineyard in the heart of Carneros. Set along a south-facing hillside overlooking the San Pablo Bay, this breathtaking property has more than 112 blocks delineated by geology and topography. Produced in limited quantities, each Ramal Vineyard wine reflects the complex interplay between grape, terroir and the seasonal weather patterns of vintage.

VINTAGE

Our estate is perfectly situated for the morning maritime influence of the San Pablo Bay and the late afternoon cooling winds channeling from the Petaluma wind gap. Budbreak occurred in early March of 2006 and was followed by a cool, wet spring that led to vigorous vine growth in spring and required careful management of the vine canopy. Summer saw drier weather and only one short hot spell. August and September were cooler than normal, which allowed the grapes to mature slowly and steadily into the harvest season.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were hand harvested at night off of our Ramal Vineyard Estate between September 9th and 28th, 2006, hand-sorted and de-stemmed. Each lot was cold soaked for 5 to 8 days to maximize color and flavor extraction. Fermentation took place in five and seven ton open-top fermentors and punched down three times a day to broaden the texture and complexity of the wine. After an average of 14 days on skins, the wine was aged in French oak barrels (39% new, remainder 1 to 4-year-old) for 9 months. The coopers were Francois Frères, Remond, Mercurey, Demptos and Dargaud & Jaegle.

TASTING NOTES

The 2006 Ramal Vineyard Pinot Noir is 100% pinot noir and shows a great combination of fruit intensity, structure and ageability. The color is deep purple with aromas of blueberry, plum and blackberry fruit, anise, allspice and mushroom. It has bright raspberry and deeper plum flavors with cinnamon, vanilla and toast notes on the long, silky finish. Pair this rich Pinot Noir with beef tenderloin and sautéed spinach.