



2009 FOUNDER'S RESERVE PINOT NOIR, CARNEROS

- 100% of the fruit from the deLeuze Family Vineyard in Carneros, certified by CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers)
- 100% Hanzell clone Pinot Noir
- Intensively farmed and hand harvested
- Open-top fermentation allows the cap to be hand punched every 6 hours
- Barrel aged for 15 months in French Oak

This 2009 vintage is a testament to the effort we make both in the vineyard and in winemaking. ZD Wines' organically farmed Carneros Estate Vineyard has been producing exceptional Pinot Noir for ten years, and has once again rewarded us with a wine that is focused on the purity of fruit and great concentration. Our vineyard is dry-farmed and meticulously tended to by Rafael Llamas, Vineyard Manager (who worked closely with the deLeuze family in establishing this vineyard in 1996). Notoriously small bunches and berries from the Hanzell clonal selection, with low yields producing less than 2 tons per acre, have helped add a complexity to the wine. In the cellar, gentle winemaking practices amplify the efforts in the vineyard. Gentle de-stemming, fermentation in small open top fermentors, and hand punch downs every six hours provide a nice extraction of flavor, color and tannin. Minimal racking and aging in small toasted French Oak barrels for 15 months puts the final touch on this elegant wine. Aromas of black cherries, ripe plum, and subtle notes of rhubarb, toasted nuts, sweet vanillin and cedar. On the palate, there is plenty of dense ripe fruit, rounded out by a wonderful balance. Our Founder Norman deLeuze picture is depicted on the front label, this wine is an on-going labor of love and commemoration of his legacy.

- Chirs Pisani, Winemaker

{ Gold Medal - Tasters Guild International Tasting 2011 }