



Au Bon Climat

A refined and structured Pinot Noir from the historic Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, one of Santa Barbara County's most revered sites for world-class Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.



Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

Sanford & Benedict Vineyard is an **iconic site in Santa Barbara County**, first planted in 1971. It played a crucial role in **establishing the region's reputation** for producing **exceptional cool-climate Pinot Noir and Chardonnay**. The vineyard is known for its **old-vine, own-rooted plantings**, which contribute to **low yields, concentrated flavors, and refined tannins**.

Located in **Sta. Rita Hills**, this vineyard benefits from **cool Pacific breezes and morning fog**, ensuring a **long growing season** that enhances acidity and aromatic complexity. The **well-draining shale and loam soils** add structure and minerality to the wines, creating a distinctive sense of place.

Winemaking

The grapes were **hand-harvested in the early morning**, ensuring freshness upon arrival at the winery. The fruit underwent a **cold soak before fermentation**, which helped extract vibrant aromas and flavors.

About **50% of the grapes were whole-cluster fermented**, adding **spice, structure, and depth**. The fermentation was **slow and controlled**, allowing gradual extraction of tannins and aromatic complexity. The wine was then pressed and aged in **François Frères French oak barrels (50% new) for 20 months**, undergoing a gentle racking before bottling to maintain purity and balance.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Pale ruby-garnet with brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma:** Wild strawberries, blackberries, allspice, dried flowers, and autumn leaves, with hints of citrus peel.
- **Palate:** A rich yet focused profile of ripe berry fruits, cedar, and dried herbs. Fine tannins and vibrant acidity lead to a long, savory finish.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir



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Did You Know?

Sanford & Benedict Vineyard is part of **Au Bon Climat's Santa Barbara Historic Vineyards Collection**, recognizing **vineyards that have defined the region's identity**. The **old-vine plantings used in this wine** offer a rare and authentic expression of **Sta. Rita Hills terroir**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Charcuterie board** – The wine's acidity and spice balance the richness of cured meats.
- **Bacon-stuffed mushrooms** – Earthy flavors complement the wine's savory depth.
- **Grilled lamb chops** – The structured tannins enhance the juiciness of the meat.
- **Rabbit stew** – The wine's complexity pairs beautifully with slow-cooked game dishes.



Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2019)

Pale ruby-garnet, the 2019 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard has singular aromas of wild strawberries and blackberries with nuances of allspice, dried flowers, citrus peel and autumn leaves. The palate is light-bodied and fresh with an alluring flourish of spices, delicate, transparent fruits and a long, graphite-laced finish.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2016)

The 2016 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard offers lovely density and richness, with quite a bit of tannic intensity that is going to need time to resolve. Blue and purplish berry fruit, lavender, mint and spice all develop in the glass, but it is the wine's overall structure that stands out most. The 2016 is all class, but readers will have to be patient to see the wine at its very finest. (AG) (9/2018)



Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 94 Points (2016)

The 2016 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, from a site on the southern edge of the Sta. Rita Hills, is the flagship Pinot Noir of the estate and saw the standard 17 months in 15% new barrels. It's beautifully concentrated (which is a trait of this vineyard) with ample red currants, red cherries, spice box, forest floor, and crushed rock aromas and flavors. With medium to full body, a ripe, layered texture, good acidity, and sound underlying structure, it's going to benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and keep for 10-15 years. 94+ (10/2018)



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