Domaine Carneros

Crafted to highlight the youthful vibrancy of Carneros, Avant-Garde Pinot Noir 2020 is a bright and expressive wine marked by red fruit purity and silky texture.

DOMAINE CARNEROS

Avant Garde Pinot Noir 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The fruit for Avant-Garde Pinot Noir 2020 is drawn exclusively from **six sustainably farmed estate vineyards** located within the **Carneros AVA**, where rolling hills and close proximity to San Pablo Bay create the ideal environment for **Pinot Noir of elegance and energy**. The marine-influenced climate—with fog-cooled mornings and breezy afternoons—extends the growing season, promoting complexity and preserving acidity.

The 2020 growing season was shaped by **low yields and small berries**, resulting from early spring frosts and rainfall during fruit set. Despite a second year of drought, July and August offered optimal ripening conditions, allowing the fruit to achieve both concentration and balance. These conditions yielded **deeply flavored, aromatic grapes**, hand-harvested with precision and crafted to express the most fragrant and vibrant parcels of the vintage.

Winemaking

Made from **100% estate-grown Pinot Noir**, this cuvée was fermented in small open-topped tanks to enhance fruit purity and extract fine tannins. The wine was then matured for **10 months in 100% French oak**, carefully selected from Burgundian cooperages. While oak provides subtle spice and structure, the emphasis remains firmly on **fresh, expressive fruit**.

Final composition shows an alcohol level of **13.8%**, balanced by a pH of **3.63** and a moderate total acidity of **0.59 g/100 ml**. These structural elements yield a **supple, food-friendly profile**, well-suited to early enjoyment while still carrying enough tension for short-term cellaring.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Medium ruby with bright clarity.
- **Aroma**: High-toned aromatics of fresh pomegranate, red raspberry, warm oak, and cinnamon.
- **Palate**: Lush and lively, showing juicy raspberry and black cherry, with subtle hints of tobacco leaf. The tannins are soft and integrated, giving way to a smooth, fruit-forward finish.

Alcohol :13,80 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Did you know?

The term **"Avant-Garde"** was chosen to reflect this wine's **role as a stylistic forerunner**—it is often the first red bottling released from a vintage at Domaine Carneros. It's designed to be approachable in its youth, while offering a genuine snapshot of both the vintage's personality and the estate's terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled salmon with lemon and herbs**: The wine's acidity and soft tannins elevate the dish without overpowering it.
- **Roast chicken with rosemary and garlic**: A classic match that highlights the savory and red fruit notes.
- **Pork tenderloin with cranberry glaze**: Complements the wine's bright berry flavors and gentle spice.
- **Mediterranean mezze (lamb kofta, grilled vegetables)**: The freshness and finesse pair well with herbal, spiced profiles.