



TOLOSA

APEX VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2022 SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS



ABOUT TOLOSA

Cowboy dreams of owning a cattle ranch brought Vintner Robin Baggett to Edna Valley. The cold Pacific wind that sweeps down the coast into the transverse valley and a myriad of soils derived from an ancient seabed made him realize he was on a frontier of a different sort. Tolosa is the expression of his commitment to spare no effort to craft nuanced and balanced Pinot Noir and Chardonnay of distinctive character to rival any in the world.

VINTAGE NOTES

A dry winter and cool spring delayed bud break, slowing down bloom and fruit development. Warmer summer weather, however, prevailed through August, followed by an unexpected heat wave of eight days in early September. Reduced yields, a result of drought conditions over the last two years, combined with higher temperatures, have produced an expressive vintage featuring ripe, concentrated flavors.

VINEYARD SOURCES

A third-generation Monterey County farmer, Ray Francioni's grandfather Sylvio Sr. settled along the Salinas River in 1886, building a dairy and growing feed for dairy cattle that morphed into a variety of other crops over the years and eventually into grapes. One of the prominent vineyard owners in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA, Ray's Apex Vineyard is the pearl of his holdings. The vineyard is situated in the heart of the AVA on a raised plateau with gravelly loam soils at 1,250 feet in altitude, and planted to Dijon clones 115 and 777. This meticulously farmed vineyard has southeastern exposures augmented by cool ocean breezes from Monterey Bay that ensure a long, cool growing season.

WINEMAKING

After destemming and a three-day cold soak, fermentation took place in open top stainless-steel tanks at a variety of temperatures, followed by aging for 11 months in French oak barrels, 13% new. "Multiple pickings in 2022 gave us a vivid portrait of Apex Vineyard and the Santa Lucia Highlands with classic, youthful red fruit flavors and wonderful balance." - Winemaker Frederic Delivert

Sight	Medium red ruby
Nose	Bright red cherry, strawberry and pomegranate aromas with notes of potpourri, fennel, miso and cinnamon.
Palate	Medium bodied with deep, ripe cherry, cranberry and plum skin flavors accented by white mushroom, black pepper, a light dustiness and a silky texture.