

MARTIN RAY WINERY

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Great wine lights a five in the soul. —MARTIN RAY

THE VINEYARDS The Martin Ray 2005 Santa Barbara County Pinot Noir is a striking blend of grapes grown in the cool coastal area of the Santa Maria Valley. This east-west running valley opens up to the Pacific Ocean, allowing the inland flow of fog and ocean breezes, making this region one of the coolest viticultural areas in California with a long, steady growing season. Pinot Noir grapes from this region have intense berry flavors and rich colors due to the many microclimates of the valley.

VINTAGE NOTES The 2005 harvest was an outstanding vintage for Santa Barbara County producing moderate crop yields. The slow ripening season without heat spikes contributes to the positive qualities of the fruit: intense color, concentrated flavors and beautiful aromatics. The vintage of 2005 promise wines with elegance, balance and structure.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES When it comes to Pinot Noir, we apply traditional Burgundian winemaking techniques. The key to our winemaking is the "intuitive" approach of understanding when to step back and not to over manipulate the wine. Our goal is to allow the wine to develop its own depth and distinctive characteristics. The 2005 Pinot Noir has a brilliant garnet color and aromas of berries and candied fruit. The palate is full and sensual with ripe raspberry and strawberry, elegantly balanced with vanilla. The mouth boasts creamy, supple texture and opulent fruit, fused with smooth but bright flavors on the finish.

FOOD AND WINE PAIRING Try this Pinot Noir paired with poached salmon in cream sauce.