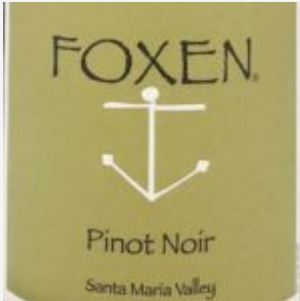


## Foxen Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2020

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein



### Final Deductions

**VINTAGE** 2020  
**GRAPE** Pinot Noir  
**GEOGRAPHY** Not Europe  
**COUNTRY** USA  
**LARGER REGION** California  
**SMALLER REGION** Central Coast  
**SUB REGION** Santa Maria Valley

### Rationale

If you saw the movie *Sideways*, then you may have at least a passing acquaintance with Santa Maria Pinot Noir. Located in the northernmost part of Santa Barbara County, just east of Santa Maria city and 15 miles inland from the Pacific Coast, Santa Maria Valley was the first in the county to receive official AVA approval in 1981. It's a region that has what many consider to be ideal soil and temperature conditions for growing the finicky Pinot Noir grape— a place where the mountains meet the sea and fog frequently roll in off of the waters to cool the vineyards.

Generally, the Pinot Noir wines from Santa Maria are redolent with lush dark cherries, spice, and more than a hint of earthiness. These are not the elegant and refined Old World style Pinot Noir wines of the Burgundy region. Instead, they are juicy wines that contain a heady and powerful combination of fruit and flavors which include cola nut, dark cherries, lightly smoked meats, and subtle earth. By contrast, leaner, more elegant styles of Pinot Noir are made from vines planted at higher elevations (more than 600ft) at the eastern end of the valley, in the peripheries of the fog line.

Bill Wathen and Dick Doré have been making wine together since 1985 when they founded Foxen Winery & Vineyard at the historic Rancho Tinaquaic on Foxen Canyon Road. It's named in memory of William Benjamin Foxen, an English sea captain and Dick's great-great-grandfather, who came to Santa Barbara in the early 1800s. The 2017 Pinot is chock full of spiced cherry, raspberry, white pepper, and sappy herb aromas/flavors.

### Sight

**BRIGHTNESS** Day Bright  
**CLARITY** Clear  
**COLOR DEPTH** Light  
**COLOR** Garnet  
**RIM VARIATION** Salmon  
*Stained Tears: None*

### Structure

**RESIDUAL SUGAR** Dry  
**ACID** Med+  
**ALCOHOL** Medium  
**TANNIN** Medium  
**TEXTURE** Lean / Tart  
**FINISH** Long  
**COMPLEXITY** High

### Aroma & Taste

**RED FRUIT** Red Currant • Red Plum • Red / Sour Cherry *Condition: Ripe, Raisinated / Dried*  
**BLACK FRUIT** Black Raspberry • Black Cherry • Black Plum *Condition: Ripe, Raisinated / Dried*  
**CITRUS FRUIT** Mandarin • Tangerine *Condition: Raisinated / Dried* *Part: Peel / Zest*  
**FLORAL** Hibiscus • Jasmine *Condition: Fresh, Dried*  
**OTHER VEGETABLE** Tomato Leaf • Ginger / Root • Rhubarb  
**HERBAL** Chive • Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Basil • Chervil  
**OTHER SPICES** Sassafras • Ginger Powder • Licorice (Red)  
**ORGANIC EARTH** Turned Dirt / Potting Soil  
**INORGANIC EARTH** Mineral / Rock • Salinity / Seashell  
**ANIMAL** Leather  
**OAK AGING** Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*  
**OAK INFLUENCE** Used Barrique  
**OXIDATION/NUTTINESS** Almond / Marzipan • Pistachio  
**PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES** Partial / Whole Cluster