

Union Sacré | Pinot Noir “Le Squire”

Edna Valley AVA



Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Region: Central Coast, CA

Winemaker: Xavier Arnaudin

Vines Age: 6-12 years

Production: 480 cases

Farming: Traditional

Soil: Dark organic clay topsoil
and sandy subsoil

The Story: Xavier Arnaudin is a name you will know, and I have to thank Andrew Jones from Field Recordings for introducing me. I told Andrew I wanted to find someone special in California. Someone who was making amazing wines that no one knew about and that I would love, and also a person that would be great to work with. He knew exactly the person I was looking for. As a young man Xavier trained to be a boxer in France and then began to train to work the vineyards and harvest in 1997 with Alain Voge. During this time, he also worked as a sommelier and earned his WSET Diploma. Once he had several harvests and his diploma under his belt, he completed his enology studies and moved to the US. Xavier brings an old- world approach to his vineyard management, cellar, and winemaking. He also brings a willingness to be different and the confidence to let his fruit and his wines speak for themselves. He is making very small amounts of very striking wines. Xavier was making wines, mostly, from Rhone/Burgundy grapes, both here and in France. Tiny Production!!

Vineyard: The single vineyard site of Jespersen Vineyard in the hills of northwest Edna Valley only 4 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The grapes were harvested at 30% whole-cluster.

Vinification: Bunches were cold soaked for 6 days with a once daily punchdown and pumpover. Fermented with native yeast in temperature-controlled stainless steel tank for 4 weeks. It was pressed sweet and finished fermentation in oak for better wood integration.

Ageing: 15 months in 60% new oak on the fine lees with daily battonage.

Everything else you want to know about this wine: The sandy topsoils of Jespersen Vineyard provide the perfect conditions to ripen the tricky Pinot Noir grapes. Here, they can achieve phenolic ripeness through long hang time without losing too much acidity or gaining too much ABV. The resulting wine is full of fruit but very elegant and balanced.

Le Storie
Wines