

**Fourth Estate Wines
2008 Pinot Noir
La Cruz Vineyard
Sonoma Coast**

From this acclaimed vineyard managed by Keller Estate comes an elegant and food-friendly Pinot Noir in the tradition of the Cote de Nuits.

Vintage characteristics: Early cool spells stressed the vines, forcing them to work hard and produce fruit with abundant flavor. A growing season of warm days and cool nights culminated in a warm harvest period, ripening the fruit for the by-hand pick in early September.

Clones: 66% La Tache (also called Pisoni), 34% Swan

Average Brix at Harvest: 25.6

Fermentation regime: 100% punch-down fermentation in one-ton lots. Five-day cold soak, 10-day fermentation, extended maceration

Barrel Regime: Barrel aged for 11 months in 100% French oak, 35% of which was new (Cadus, Remond and Dargaud & Jaegle)

Total production: 160 cases

Alcohol: 14.5%

Release date: March 2010

Winemaker notes: The refined fruit of the La Tache clone and floral characteristics of its Swan counterpart mesh with the minerality of this vineyard site in the Sonoma Coast's Petaluma Gap to forge a "grown-up" Pinot Noir with a complex range of scents and flavors. Acacia flowers, cassis, raspberry and blueberry notes predominate.

