



# TOLOSA

## Apex Vineyard Pinot Noir 2021 Santa Lucia Highlands

### VINTAGE NOTES

2021 was a cool and extensive growing season and a dry year, almost two-thirds of the total rainfall occurred in one 72-hour period. The marine layer and cooler weather conditions delayed grape development, but sunny and warmer weather in September helped the vines catch up. Quality is very good, with grapes showing excellent phenolic development and lower pH levels.

### ABOUT THE VINEYARD

Ray Francioni's family has been farming in the Salinas Valley since the 1880's. Their Apex Vineyard is situated in the heart of the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA, west of Salinas on a raised plateau with gravelly loam soils at 1,250 feet in altitude. Southeastern exposures and cool ocean breezes from Monterey Bay 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 range of warm and cool temperatures. Aged for 11 months in 100% French oak with 18% new barrels.

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| <b>Sight</b>  | Medium ruby red  |
| <b>Nose</b>   | Red fruit aromas including raspberry, cherry and cranberry intermingled with notes of roses, dusty rock, olive and toast.                                  |
| <b>Palate</b> | Medium bodied with forward, bright red cherry and raspberry flavors along with accents of red licorice, dried leaves and new leather. Exceptional balance. |