

# ISABEL MONDAVI

## 2011 ISABEL MONDAVI Estate Pinot Noir

### *VINTAGE*

2011 was another challenging vintage for most of Northern California, including Carneros, located in the southernmost part of Napa County. Harvest started later than is typical for Carneros and berries were smaller than in past harvests, resulting in low yields and exquisite concentration. Despite the challenges from Mother Nature, the excellent quality of our Pinot Noir grapes was maintained with vigilant vineyard management and careful sorting at the winery resulting in balanced fruit, with nice acidity and rich flavors.

*100% Pinot Noir ~ Alcohol 14.5% ~ pH 3.70 ~ TA 5.39 g/L*

### *WINEMAKING*

The Gallery Vineyard is 7 acres of Pinot Noir, of which 3ac is Swan Clone and 4ac is Dijon Clone. Our Dijon clone vines (86% of blend) were picked on September 28<sup>th</sup> and our Swan clone vines (14% of blend) were picked on October 3<sup>rd</sup> as the vines ripen at different rates. The picked fruit was carefully selected on a vibrating sorting table and then de-stemmed and crushed prior to a three day cold soak. Following fermentation in stainless steel tanks with native yeast, the fermented must is gently basket pressed for careful extraction of tannin and color. The wine was aged for 10 months in Boutes and Francois Freres French oak barrels (45% new).

### *TASTING NOTES*

Elegant aromas of violets, cherries and other red fruit layered with a hint of caramel. Fresh herbal notes give the nose added complexity. On the palate, strawberry and cranberry flavors meld with a subtle expression of crème brulee. The wine is medium-bodied in weight and expresses lively acidity and bright cherry flavors on the finish.

### *ISABEL MONDAVI WINES*

Isabel Mondavi wines are made at the Michael Mondavi Family Estate in the Carneros region of Napa Valley. What started as a “just few cases of rosé for mom,” turned into an exciting new venture thanks to the food friendly wine style and attractive labels. A true family affair, the packaging and brand vision is directed by Isabel’s daughter, Dina, winemaking is directed by Isabel’s son, Rob Mondavi Jr., and Isabel’s husband and wine industry veteran, Michael Mondavi, is the brand’s biggest cheerleader and fan.