

Santa Lucia Highlands, California

Manzoni Estate Vineyard



WHAT TO BUY

'08 **Chardonnay** Ripe Bosc pear and tropical aromas, hazelnut, crème brûlée, citrus \$26

'09 **Estate Pinot Noir** Rich cherry, plum, spice, touch of vanillin oak \$26

'07 **Estate Syrah** Pomegranate, licorice, and mocha/vanilla aromas, caramel, new French oak \$26

CONTACT

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TASTING

Tasting Room Open Fri–Sun 11–5
30981 River Rd
Soledad, CA 93960

SPECIAL NOTES

Wine club discounts, gift shop, scenic views, owner on site, private tastings by appointment

1. Mark and Sabrina Manzoni with Winemaker David Coventry
2. Located on River Road, the Manzoni tasting room is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and by appointment

ALTHOUGH they have a family farming tradition in Monterey County that dates back more than seven decades, Manzoni Estate Vineyard's brothers Mark and Michael are relatively new to the wine-growing side of things.

Their family ranch has been a fixture in what is now the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation since 1956, when Mark and Michael's father Louie bought the land. In fact, it was Louie who first suggested they plant grapevines on a small portion of the mountainous property. Their first harvest in 2001 netted just enough Pinot Noir grapes to make two barrels of wine. They called on friend and neighbor Jeff Pisoni to make that first vintage for their own personal use. On Super Bowl weekend 2003, they introduced the Pinot Noir that Jeff had made for them to family and associates.

"It went over very, very well," Mark recalls. "In fact, one of our friends mentioned that a restaurant in Carmel did blind wine tastings and suggested that we enter our 'homemade' Pinot. We

placed third in a tasting with several well-known labels." It was at that moment that Mark and Michael entered the wine business.

Since then, Manzoni Estate Vineyard has remained dedicated to producing wines that reflect their heritage and special sense of place. The six-acre hillside vineyard is planted to Pinot Noir and Syrah. While exquisite Pinot Noir is the focus, Manzoni's limited production, cool climate Chardonnays and Syrahs have also received their share of accolades. The recent addition of respected Winemaker David Coventry sets the stage for the next exciting chapter in the family's story.

From its vantage point on the Santa Lucia Highlands' bench, the charming Manzoni visitor center overlooks the Salinas River Valley. Guests often find one of the family members themselves behind the tasting bar. Those unable to make regular visits often join the Manzoni Wine Club – the best way to guarantee a share of some of the Santa Lucia Highlands' most limited, best kept secrets. 🌿

