

## Vineyards

Â Â Â The grapes for this wine were grown in two vineyards overlooking the prolific Salinas Valley made famous in the novels of John Steinbeck.Â Riverview Vineyard is planted into a gravelly-loam resting upon a hillside supported by a formation of shale.Â There,Â cooling winds blow down from the inlet at Elkhorn Slough to provide for slow, even ripening of the resulting grapes.Â These grapes overlook a bend in the Salinas River made famous in the opening of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

Â Â Â Located on a wind-swept terrace just south of Arroyo Seco, the Mesa del Rio vineyard enjoys the benefit of eastern, morning sun shine.Â Viticulturists theorize that morning sun provides a more gentle warmth which allows the grapes to ripen more evenly and completely.Â The result â€” a wine filled with lush notes of pineapple and pear.Â

## In the Winery

Â Â Â The grapes were harvested by hand in early-to-midÂ October of 2007.Â Yields were low, 3.0-3.5Â tons per acre.Â Arriving at the winery, we whole-cluster pressed the grapes using a gentle bladder press and cold-settled for over 30 hours.Â The juice was barreled down into French oak â€” 75% into a combination of new and two-year-old wood â€”Â with the remaining 25% into stainless, and then inoculated with a selection of yeasts.Â At the end of the alcoholic fermentation, the barrels were topped and sent through a malo-lactic fermentation, the tank was not.Â Aging continued sur lie (on the yeast) for eight months with minimal stirring.Â Â TheÂ wine was blended and bottled in late March 2008.

## Tasting Notes

COLOR:Â Â Â Â Medium straw-colored

Â NOSE:Â Â Â Â Pineapple, Fuji apple with Montrachet complexity

MOUTH:Â Â Â Â Bright pineapple, apple and butter notes are  
Â Â Â Â followed by hints of toasty oak and vanilla.

