

Pinot Noir Press



BLAIR ESTATE VINEYARDS & WINERY

An artisan winery in the heart of Arroyo Seco, Blair Estate honors the Blair family's farming legacy with the world-class Delfina's Vineyard and a collection of limited-release wines.



One of the newest micro-estate wineries in the Arroyo Seco appellation, Blair Estate Vineyards and Winery was founded in 2007 by Jeffrey Blair, whose family has deep farming roots in the Monterey County region. The winery crafts limited releases of ultra-premium Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, two varietals that are perfectly suited to the rocky soils and cool climate of this northeast corner of Arroyo Seco. Although very small in size, Blair Estate Vineyards and Winery has gained serious praise and recognition over the years and today stands as one of the top artisan producers in the area.

wine as a kid with his grandfather in the basement. Delfina inspired generations of the Blair family with her passion for the land, so it was only fitting that her legacy be carried on with the new Blair family vineyard operation.



Jeffrey Blair's family has been farming in Monterey County for five generations, but it wasn't until 2007 that the first grapevines were planted on the family property. In fact, the vines were planted on the very first Monterey property purchased by the Blair family in the 1920's and the new plantings were named *Delfina's Vineyard* to honor the family's matriarch and Jeffrey Blair's beloved grandmother, Delfina. Delfina's house still stands on the estate today, holding many special memories for Jeffrey and his siblings. It was a home where Delfina would cook daily for the family and ranch workers, and it was where Jeffrey remembers first making

Cattle ranching and breeding had been Jeffrey Blair's primary focus until 2007, when he started planting Pinot Noir and Chardonnay on the family's old ranch. He knew the potential for winegrowing in the area, given the success of several vineyard estates in the Arroyo Seco and neighboring Santa Lucia Highlands appellations, and he was intrigued to try his hand at it.

Jeffrey Blair's goal was simple: to grow and produce the ultimate statement Pinot Noir; a Pinot Noir focused on this one piece of land, one piece of family history. Nothing less would suffice to honor his grandmother Delfina's memory.



With the first harvest in 2010, Jeffrey knew he had hit the Mother Lode with Delfina's Vineyard. The fruit had enough quality and complexity to make a great wine - and let it be known that it is very unusual to make such a well-structured wine from so young a vineyard. It is also very difficult to grow and produce Pinot Noir, which is one of the most

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particular grape varieties. There are few places on Earth where climate and soils combine to provide just the right conditions for this noble grape and the Arroyo Seco appellation is certainly one of those such places.

What is it that makes Arroyo Seco so unique? Arroyo Seco, which literally means "dry riverbed," is arguably the coolest growing region in all of Monterey County. Morning fogs and afternoon winds off the nearby Monterey Bay mitigate daytime temperatures and help give Arroyo Seco one of the longest growing seasons in all of California. This extended growing season means gentle, slow ripening and excellent flavor development in the wine grapes - which is exactly what you want when producing world-class Pinot Noir.

Today's Delfina's Vineyard is planted to just over five acres of Pinot Noir, almost two acres of Chardonnay, and one block of Muscat. The "micro" nature of the Blair Estate project allows complete and total quality control from the vineyard to the bottling line. In order to expand the collection, Jeffrey Blair purchases fruit from select nearby growers who share his passion for quality and the earth. Jeffrey also oversees the winemaking for Blair Estate and is incredibly proud to share his limited release wines, while honoring his family's farming legacy.

BLAIR ESTATE 2013 PINOT NOIR Delfina's Vineyard, Arroyo Seco, Monterey County

Produced from the Blair family's Estate Delfina's Vineyard, this 2013 Pinot Noir is an award-winning stunner! On the nose, you will find notes of rose petals, spice, strawberry and Big cherry, with hints of sagebrush and bay leaf. The palate is earthy with juniper and turned-loam flavors, plus more bay leaf, cranberry, and some rhubarb. Its balanced acidity and light tannins give it a long finish with nice spice notes. Aged in oak. Enjoy now until 2021.

**91 POINTS + GOLD MEDAL
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91 POINTS – *Intl. Wine Review*

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