



Platinum Wine Club

90+ Rated, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers.

Solomon Hills Vineyards | Santa Maria Valley

When the Miller family of California's Central Coast launched their most recent winery project in 2008, most industry insiders were already convinced of the operation's eventual success. These early predictions have already proven to be accurate.

The evolution of Solomon Hills Vineyards is already an accomplished fact given the immediate acceptance of the wines by both the consuming public and most industry periodicals. The reason for these acknowledgments is quite simple; a wonderful vineyard location and an armful of wine industry expertise.

"We wanted to tell the story of the vineyard," informed Nicholas Miller, a fifth-generation member of the Miller family. "Our customers have made such incredible wines with our fruit that it seemed the natural thing to do. Everyone in the wine business knows that the greatness of a wine is directly related to the quality of the fruit involved."

The vineyards involved are located directly along Highway 101, just south of Santa Maria, the stretch of road known for centuries as the storied El Camino Real. Their location is also the westernmost in all of California, making them compliant to the caprices and whims of the Pacific Ocean. It is also interesting to note that the Santa Maria Appellation is the second oldest appellation in California, coming just seven months behind Napa Valley in 1981.

"We knew what we were in for with these vineyards," Miller continued. "We knew that each year would be a different set of struggles and problems to face. But, we were also pretty sure of what we could expect them to produce. We just try and not make any mistakes. We let the *terroir* do the rest."

Solomon Hills also has its share of history. Supposedly named after an early 19th Century bandit named Solomon Pico, whom folklore has it was the main focus for the Zorro legends, the area has become a prime component for the prestigious Santa Maria growing appellation. The fruit from this area is always in great demand and is made into numerous vineyard-designate wines throughout the Central Coast of California.

Solomon Hills' production is absolutely minuscule. Only 100 to 300 cases are made of each varietal, depending on yearly variations within each vineyard.

"We are fortunate to enjoy the luxury of putting together small components for our wines," added Miller. "There is really only moderate growth for Solomon Hills in our future plans. We want to keep everything small and our quality extremely high."

The Millers also own the iconic Bien Nacido Vineyard, considered by many to be one of the prime producing vineyards in all of California. They have recently built a state-of-the-art winery facility at Bien Nacido where most of the family's wines are made, including Solomon Hills Vineyards.

Solomon Hills Vineyards is still much of a family affair for the Millers. The winery's label was designed by Miller's wife Shelly, and the company's financial and operational duties are under the charge of his brother Marshall. Nicholas Miller handles the company's sales and marketing chores and states that he has recently been demoted to "cellar rat" with the addition of winemaker Trey Fletcher. Family patriarch Steve Miller is still active in all aspects of the sprawling Miller viticultural empire.

"We are nothing more than a family business," a modest Nicholas Miller confided. "Our family is very similar to the growers and vintners along the Central Coast. Whenever there is a problem, everyone pitches in and helps. I'm not sure you find that sort of cooperation and spirit throughout the rest of California. Many of our customers have used our facilities for many years and have developed endearing relationships with all involved."

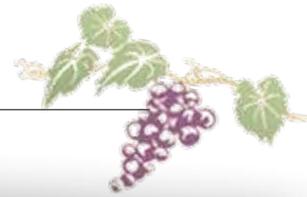
It seems as if everything is in place for Solomon Hills Vineyards to continue its award-winning pace for many years to come. With incredible fruit from its namesake vineyard and the carefully thought out winery plan for the company itself, Solomon Hills Vineyards is in the unique position of having to produce additional wine for its cadre of loyal followers. Not many of its competitors can match that problem, a huge plus for the Miller family owned operation.

And, Nicholas Miller has himself received noteworthy honors of his own - including being named to the *Wine Enthusiast's* list of **Top 40, Under 40**. This annual listing features the top tastemakers in the wine industry that are considered wine's rising stars. It is a distinct honor that is well deserved.

We proudly present Solomon Hills Vineyards to our *Platinum Wine Club* members.



Solomon Hills | 2014 Pinot Noir, Santa Maria Valley



94 POINTS
— Antonio Galloni's *Vinous*

94 POINTS
— Jeb Dunnuck

93 POINTS
— *Wine Enthusiast* magazine

91+ POINTS
— Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate

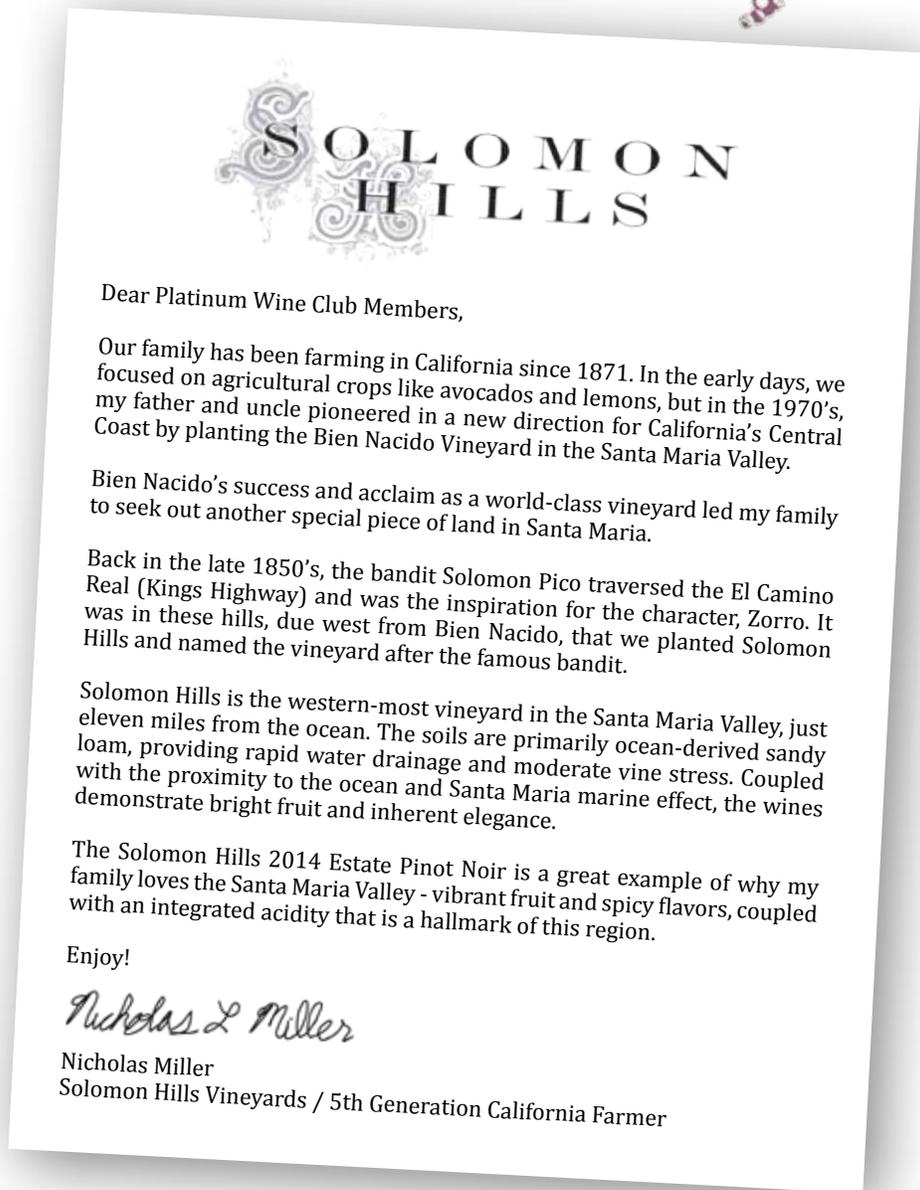
316 cases produced

Crafted from the esteemed Solomon Hills vineyard, the western-most site in the Santa Maria Valley, this 2014 Pinot Noir packs great energy and tremendous depth of flavors. On the nose, vibrant aromatics of fennel, cinnamon and blue fruits dominate, while hints of toasted oak, rhubarb, cranberry and roasted plum come through as the wine opens up. These notes carry through on the palate, with the addition of spicy fruit flavors and nuances of bay leaf, dried sage and roasted meat. Well-integrated acidity balances out these masculine flavors that linger on the long finish. Aged 18 months in French oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy now until 2022.



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**This month's Platinum *Plus!*
Featured Wine:**

**Adaptation 2015 Cabernet
Sauvignon, Napa Valley**

92 Points + Editor's Choice
— *Wine Enthusiast*



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