

Pinot Noir Press



STOLO VINEYARDS & WINERY

Versatile and charming, Stolo Vineyards & Winery has become one of the finest producers of Pinot Noir within the Central Coast's San Luis Obispo County.



When Don and Charlene Stolo first saw the town of Cambria, the couple was simply searching for a retirement site for their family. That was almost 25 years ago and the Stolos found a dream location around the incredibly alluring town. Children of Italian immigrants, the Stolos were familiar with wine and eventually decided to plant some vineyards to take advantage of the apparent wine boom that was developing along the entire Central Coast.

Fast forward to the present time and Stolo Vineyards & Winery has become a modern-day success story. And, true to its name, it is most certainly a truly family oriented business.

Daughter Maria Bennetti Stolo had the original idea to enter the wine industry and now serves as the entity's general manager and overseer of the company's growth. "We started with a tiny release of 176 cases back in 2004," she recalled. "Things have gone quite nicely for us and this year we will produce around 4,200 cases. We still want to grow some more, but we want our customer base to help us with that decision. 5,000 cases would be a nice goal, sometime in the future."

Maria Bennetti Stolo handles all the day to day facets for the winery. Well-respected winemaker Nicole Bertolli Pope (formerly with top producers

Domaine Carneros and Talley Vineyards) and Nicole's husband Lucas Pope who has responsibility for the family's 24 planted acres of vineyards are key Stolo Vineyards team members.

"Nicole is simply a world-class winemaker," extolled Maria Bennetti Stolo, with a high degree of pride. "She loves working with some of the more difficult varietals, particularly Pinot Noir. Our vineyards are arguably among the closest to the Pacific Ocean and we benefit from the fog and steady afternoon sun. The fruit from our Creekside Vineyard has fully developed (after eleven years) and produces extremely intense grapes—in much the same manner as Pinot Noir does in Burgundy. This shows up even more after vinification where the terroir really expresses itself. Terroir-driven wines have always been our ultimate goal and these estate grapes from all of our vineyards make it all happen."

The future for Stolo Vineyards & Winery seems unlimited. Their location and the quality of the wines they produce make for a complete picture of a top Central Coast Winery. It is our pleasure to offer this marvelous 2017 Estate Pinot Noir, San Luis Obispo for your enjoyment. If this is your first time to enjoy a Stolo Vineyards estate Pinot Noir, we know it won't be your last. Cheers!





NICOLE BERTOLLI POPE, WINEMAKER

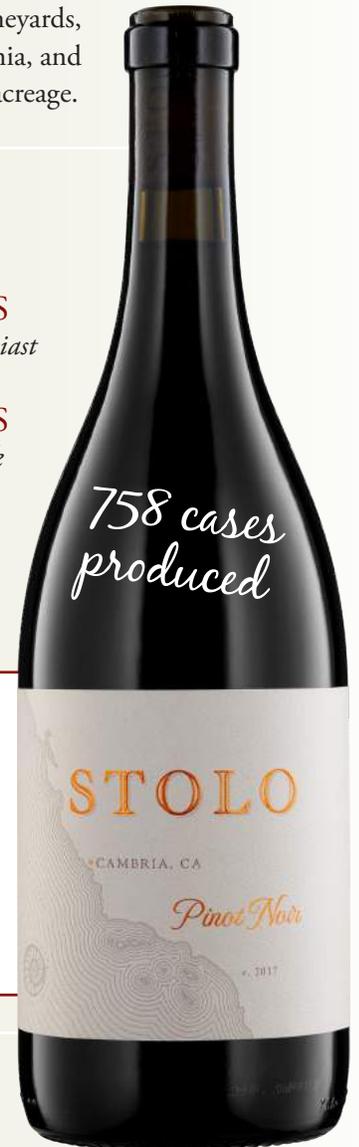
A graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in biological sciences, Pope traveled and worked in California, Australia and South Africa while honing her winemaking skills. She worked as an enologist at Domaine Carneros in Napa Valley and Talley Vineyards in Arroyo Grande where she specialized in cool climate Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays. She joined the Stolo Family Vineyards & Winery team in 2011 and has been responsible for most of the company's award-winning and high scoring wines. She is married to well-respected vineyard consultant Lucas Pope who founded Coastal Range Vineyards, one of the leading consulting firms in Northern California, and the person who handles all the Stolo Family Vineyards acreage.

2017 STOLO VINEYARDS ESTATE PINOT NOIR Rio Vista Vineyard, San Luis Obispo County

Stolo Vineyards & Winery has ascended to the top of ultra-quality wine producers through numerous high scores from wine industry periodicals and multiple high awards in top wine competitions. Their 2017 Pinot Noir from the San Luis Obispo County is proving to be yet another impressive vintage. This almost magical Pinot Noir offers a nose of bright pomegranate, cranberry, rose petal, pine needles and smoky oak as a starter. Its garnet color features a palate of pomegranate, fresh strawberry and a sage, along with flavors of under-ripe raspberry and dried thyme. The finish is nicely balanced with fantastic purity of fruit that holds for an extended period. 100% Pinot Noir. Alcohol 13.4%. Aged for 10 months in French Oak (30% new). All fruit was harvested at night.

93 POINTS
– *Wine Enthusiast*

90 POINTS
– *Jeb Dunnuck*



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