

# BIRICHINO



## 2021 ENZ VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Lime Kiln Valley is tucked away in the back of a box canyon, perpendicular to the Cienega Valley in San Benito County. The San Andreas Fault lies barely a mile to the northeast, at the Valley mouth. An active granite quarry sits a few hundred yards to the west. Abandoned 19th Century lime kilns dot the hillsides. Quarrymen work a large dolomite deposit a few miles away. This extreme terroir, with its significant deposits of limestone, dolomite, and decomposed granite, account for the potent Enz-ness which infuses any wine from this vineyard. The Pinot Noir here was grafted onto much older roots in the 1980s. Farmed organically, and *without irrigation*, Enz lies at a slightly lower elevation (1000') than our two Chalone sites, but shares the same geology and tectonics that inform its character. An Enz Pinot Noir is more Enz than it is Pinot Noir, so clear is that expression of place. Obviously, differences can be discerned between varieties, however common sensory impressions cannot be denied. While we generally resist throwing around highly specific tasting notes, the signal sensory marker of Enz Pinot Noir may be described as licking freeze-dried watermelon powder off of cool, damp river stones, with a violet liqueur chaser. We harvested by hand the nights of August 24th and September 1st, and co-fermented native both picks together, including 30% stems in a single open-top stainless tank. Once primary kicked off, we gently pumped over until the tank tasted dry, and pressed off down to old French barriques for a 13 month-long elevage before barrel selection, racking once, and bottling unfiltered in December of 2022.

**Harvest:** August 24 & Sept 1, 2021

**Appellation:** Lime Kiln Valley

**Alc:**13% **TA:** 7.5 g/L **pH** 3.19

**Production:** 161cs

