

Editors' CHOICE

Etude Wines

LOCATED IN CARNEROS, CALIFORNIA, ETUDE Wines (www.etudewines.com) was founded in 1982 with the philosophy that inspired grape growing diminishes the need for intervention by the winemaker, resulting in superior wines that are grown, not made. Etude (French for “study”) specializes in two classic red varieties – pinot noir and cabernet sauvignon. Winemaker Jon Priest sources Etude’s pinot noir grapes from the Etude Estate Vineyards in the cool Carneros region. He sources fruit for the winery’s cabernet sauvignon from the warmer northern half of the Napa Valley.

The Etude Estate Vineyards are configured into dozens of small vineyards, averaging only eight acres in size. The spacing is dense to ensure low per-vine yields of fully concentrated fruit. Nearly 20 pinot noir clones, including 10 low-yielding heirloom varieties, have been planted. The Etude Estate Vineyards have also been designed for sustainable viticulture and to minimize their impact on the environment and surrounding community. Native flora and naturally occurring wetlands have been protected, and creeks are being restored. Wildlife has also been afforded safe passageways through the vineyards.

The Etude portfolio of wines includes Carneros Pinot Gris, Carneros Rosé of Pinot Noir – Estate, Carneros Pinot Noir – Estate, Deer Camp Pinot Noir – Estate, Temblor Pinot Noir – Estate, Heirloom Carneros Pinot Noir – Estate, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, and appellation cabernets from Rutherford, St. Helena, and Oakville. Etude wines can be found in fine restaurants and retail stores across the country, and can also be purchased at the winery and on the winery’s Web site.

The winery consists of three beautiful masonry buildings – totaling 40,000 square feet – that occupy a picturesque setting just a few miles from Etude’s vineyards in Carneros. Etude offers scheduled tastings at 10 AM, 1 PM, and 3 PM Monday through Friday. ●



Etude winery, and a bottle of its pinot noir