



2008 Au Bon Climat Isabelle Pinot Noir -Vintages are usually defined by some significant event usually the weather, the cool weather of 1991 the rains during the 1994 harvest and the brutal heat of the 2000 harvest. The 2008 vintage was NOT defined by bad weather but by very consistent warm “nice” days and the election of Barack Obama as President.

In the late spring, when the Pinot Noir on the vine just starts to change color all the Pinot Noir barrels in the Au Bon Climat cellar from the previous vintage are carefully unstacked by the cellar master/sous chef Enrique Rodriguez. These barrels are evaluated by Jim Clendenen, the owner and winemaker of Au Bon Climat. Through this rigorous selection process the best barrels are chosen. The “chosen” barrels go into our most prestigious cuvee, our Isabelle Pinot Noir. The 2008 cuvee is selection of the 36 best Pinot Noir barrels from the Au Bon Climat cellar. Many of the great Pinot Noir regions of California are represented in this blend. A few of the vineyards included in this blend are, Elke in Anderson Valley, Barham Mendelsohn in Russian River, Talley in the Arroyo Grande Valley, Sanford and Benedict in the Santa Rita Hills , and Bien Nacido, Le Bon Climat, and Neilson all in the Santa Maria Valley.

At least 20 different clones are represented in the 2008 wine. All of the barrels are new Francois Freres. The 2008 Isabelle was bottled in September of 2010. After the initial racking, shortly after the selection process the wine was allowed to age untouched for a total of 24 months. This wine was not fined or filtered prior to bottling.