

Deovlet, Santa Barbara County Pinot Noir

- Lovely cuvée of Santa Barbara county, with savory and bright fruits and extraordinary complexity
 - Rising star winemaker setting new benchmarks for quality
 - 92 Points, Wine Advocate

The Producer

Ryan Deovlet is one of the most exciting new winemakers in the Central Coast. With each of his small-production Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, Deovlet strives to give identity to the vineyard, a nod to the old world and a kiss of fruit. Like new producers in Burgundy, Deovlet partners with vineyards as if he were the estate owner, controlling the whole process from vine to bottle with passion, artistry, and intuition.

His inspiration to make wine came unexpectedly in 2004 during a college vacation in Hawaii, when he tasted fresh coffee from a local coffee plantation. Having grown up with a green thumb, he was struck with the desire to create a product from the land. He quickly decided to pursue wine and embarked on a 4-year exploration to learn everything he could about making it.

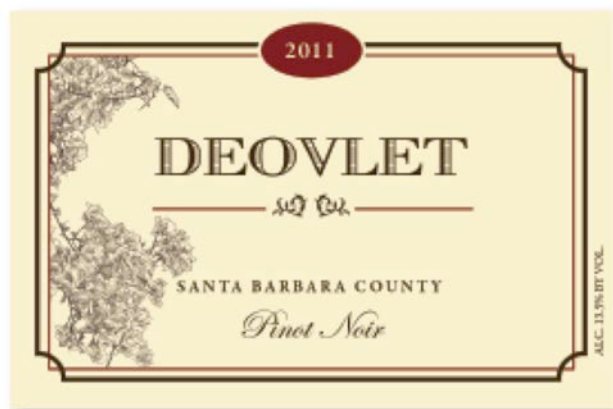
Deovlet sought to learn first hand from great winemakers and viticulturists, gaining apprenticeships with Stephen Dooley of Stephen Ross Wine Cellars, David Ramey at Red Car Wine Company, and Paul Hobbs of Viña Cobos in Mendoza, Argentina. Through this work he developed a vision for managing vine balance—versus vineyard yields—to achieve optimal phenolic ripeness. He also gained conviction about being impeccable in the cellar, doing things by hand, and not being dogmatic about vinification. Thorough in every detail, Deovlet next studied his customer, taking the certified sommelier exam.

Deovlet returned to California in 2008 with the aspiration to start his own label. While developing estate projects for Santa Barbara clients (including Refugio Ranch, where he is now winemaker), he landed a vineyard parcel of his own at La Encantada from Sta. Rita Hills winemaking legend, Richard Sanford. He quickly showed himself to be a true partner of the vineyard by working together on farming techniques and producing outstanding wines that give the vineyard identity. That auspicious beginning led Deovlet to develop enduring partnerships with other prime vineyards in the Central Coast.

Today Deovlet produces Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from great vineyards in the Central Coast including La Encantada, Sanford & Benedict, Solomon Hills. Each wine is produced in very small quantities (200 cases or less). His second vintage, 2009, earned more than 90 points from Parker.

The Wine

This county blend is light on its feet with lovely weight and texture, extraordinary complexity, and a seductive exchange between the savory side of Santa Maria Valley and the purity of fruit in Sta. Rita Hills. Offering fragrant aromatics with beautifully integrated fruit and spice, the wine is mysterious and layered yet never ponderous. Another small production gem from Ryan Deovlet!



Region: Central Coast

Appellation: Santa Barbara County

Vineyards: La Encantada and Bien Nacido

Soil: Gravel, sandy loam

Varietal Blend: 100% Pinot Noir

Farming: Sustainable

Yield: 1.5 – 2 tons/ acre

Harvest: one of the first to harvest in vineyard

Vinification: 5 day cold soak with once-daily pumpovers, and 7 day fermentation with pigeage and punch downs

Aging: 15 months, 25% new French oak

Tasting Notes: Perfumed nose of red raspberry, dark cherry, incense, and lavender. Fleshy and approachable the wine poses velvet like tannin with a very concentrated core.