



Carneros is a Spanish word for 'ram', in homage to the many sheep ranches that historically dotted the rolling hills and flat valley plain of the region.



Along the north shore of the San Pablo Bay, south of the Carneros AVA, lies the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge includes open bay/tidal marsh, mud flats and seasonal and managed wetland habitats. This area also acts as a conduit, bringing the cooling fog from the Bay into the AVA.

Cherry Pie Pinot Noir San Pablo Bay Block

Carneros AVA | NAPA COUNTY

Carneros was the first wine region defined by its climate characteristics rather than political boundaries. As a result, this is one of the few AVA's within Napa Valley that crosses both Napa and Sonoma. The Carneros AVA is the driest and coolest sub-AVA of Napa Valley. Fierce and persistent winds off the San Pablo Bay encourages the grapevines to struggle and retain moisture. Heavily influenced by morning fog from the San Pablo Bay, in the summer there can be a ten degree temperature difference between Carneros and the Northern Napa Valley sub-AVAs such as Calistoga or Rutherford. As a result, this makes the perfect growing conditions for Pinot Noir as the cool climate slows down ripening and preserves acidity in the grapes.



San Pablo Bay Block

- Our Carneros Vineyard is on the Napa side in the low-lying hills of the Mayacamas range on the edge of the San Pablo Bay
- Within our Carneros Vineyard lies the San Pablo Bay Block where the premium Pinot Noir grapes that go into Cherry Pie are grown
 - Within the Block are four different clones of Pinot Noir which adds complexity to the final blend
 - All vines are over twenty years old—with some being planted as early as 1993
 - Vineyard soil is a mix of shallow clay-loam which allows for high extract and color in the grapes while reducing vine vigor
 - All vines are VSP trellised which, coupled with aggressive canopy management, ensures the grapes have enough sunlight to ripen
- Quality of Carneros Pinot Noir is highly sought after as shown by neighboring vineyards owned by Pine Ridge, Cakebread and Robert Sinskey