

TAZ VINEYARDS  
FIDDLESTIX

Serendipity caused Bob Steinhauer and Fiddlehead Proprietor Kathy Joseph to find each other, just as each was longing for an exceptional bit of dirt to grow Pinot Noir. Fiddlestix Vineyard and a unique vineyard partnership resulted from their musings.

Though Fiddlestix is young, it's no surprise that **PINOT NOIR** fruit from the carefully planned blocks is among the most sought after on the Central Coast. Here in the 700 planted hillside acres that comprise the Santa Rita Hills AVA, winegrowing reputations have long been enhanced. From gentle slopes leading down toward the Santa Ynez River, Fiddlestix looks up on the Santa Rosa Hills, witness to a rolling vineyard that helped define Santa Barbara Pinot Noir. Wine critic Hugh Johnson once described neighboring Sanford and Benedict vineyard as "perfect for Pinot Noir." Today, Fiddlestix itself is often noted as a vineyard designate, recognition of its own greatness, still unfolding.

In 33 small blocks a variety of rootstocks and clones are planted in soils ranging from rocky clay loams on slopes to more sandy and silt loams in the flats. Vines are planted to assure a minimal crop load. Clones include Pommard and Dijon selections. Years ago flowers flourished here, but today, on VSP trellis generally in north-south facing rows, grapes open to the cooling influences of the Pacific, achieving long hang times resulting in flavorful ripe fruit.

Taz Pinot Noirs will be largely focused here, and a vineyard designate wine will be celebrated most years.

*Varietal*  
Pinot Noir

*Rootstocks*  
101-14, 3309, 110R, SO4

*Clones*  
4, 5, 113, 115, 667, 777

*Appellation*  
Santa Rita Hills

