



Metz Road
winemaker Casey
DiCesare at the
winery.



Under the Confluence

WIND, MARINE AIR, AND A LONG HANG TIME IMPACT THE “BEHAVIOR” OF THESE MONTEREY COUNTY WINES

by Meridith May

SINCE 1972, THE Scheid family has been growing grapes in the northernmost region of the Central Coast, Monterey County, which shows a wide range of variation when it comes to wine styles. For the first 15 years, they sold all their fruit to other wineries; today, the evolution of their 12 estate vineyards along a 70-mile stretch of the Salinas Valley and the array of wines they produce prove how entrenched they are in Monterey’s many microclimates.

At the bottom of the Monterey Bay lies a deep gorge called the Monterey Canyon, which rivals the Grand Canyon in size. It causes frigid water to rise from its depths to the surface, cooling the marine air along the coastline. This enables a longer growing season for the 39 varieties cultivated by the Scheid family.

These latest releases are a testament to the Scheids’ collaboration with the land through the lens of their interpretation of estate vineyards.



Winemaker Dave Nagengast, pictured walking through the Pinot Noir vines in the Riverview Vineyard, oversees production at Scheid Family Wines.

2022 Scheid Vineyards Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Monterey County (\$25) Winemaker Dave Nagengast ferments this wine entirely in stainless steel for three months. Fresh on both the nose and palate, the aromatic white begins with vivid green scents of chervil and oregano along with a whiff of lemongrass. The floral entry is brimming with honeysuckle and jasmine, accompanied by tart pineapple and a splash of green tea. The grapes hail from two estate vineyards: one in the Arroyo Seco AVA, which sees foggy mornings and cool afternoon winds, and the other in the San Lucas AVA further south and inland, where long, warm days alternate with cool nights. **93**



Riverview Vineyard:

The Home of Metz Road

Created to eke out world-class single-vineyard Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays from the Monterey AVA, the Metz Road label, which is overseen by winemaker Casey DiCesare, is named for the road that runs alongside the Riverview Vineyard.

It’s unusual for the wind not to be blowing at the 338-acre vineyard, which overlooks the Salinas River adjacent to Pinnacles National Park. The coastal fog that descends in the evening lingers through mid-morning the next day, and the steady ripening of the fruit shows in the immaculate balance of these wines.

Metz Road 2021 Estate Chardonnay, Riverview Vineyard, Monterey County (\$30)

Mouth-filling toffee, coconut, and banana lead to a bright, lemony middle. Acidity is balanced by oak and lasting notes of crème brûlée. With a defined body weight, this wine—which aged on lees in French oak barrels for 12 months—possesses a vivacious quality. **93**



2020 Metz Road Estate Pinot Noir, Riverview Vineyard, Monterey County (\$35)

Sumptuous and earthy yet with gossamer wings, this sustainably farmed, French oak-aged red is packed with ripe fruit. White pepper engages the palate, releasing wild strawberry and tobacco. The result is a jewel, with bright acidity and lingering notes of pomegranate and espresso. **94** 

