



2016 STA. RITA HILLS PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	5.8 g/l
pH	3.64
Alcohol	14.4%
Production	512 cases

VINEYARDS

31% Rio Vista, 31% Rancho La Viña, 17% Radian, 10% Zotovich, 5% Rita's Crown,
3% Hilliard Bruce and 3% La Encantada

This wine is a beautiful overview of the Sta. Rita Hills, combining Pinot Noir from across the temperature zones of the appellation. Rio Vista Vineyard represents the eastern end of the appellation where temperatures are slightly warmer. Most of the vineyards sourced for this wine are located a bit further west in the heart of Sta. Rita Hills' cool Pinot Noir zone. Radian is the coldest vineyard in the appellation where its location in the southwest corner of the AVA is unsheltered from direct exposure to cold winds and fog from the Pacific.

VINTAGE

Unseasonably warm weather in February was moderated by cold nighttime temperatures, suppressing budbreak until early March. While the limited winter rainfall was disappointing, the timing was advantageous. Most precipitation fell January through March, allowing flowering and set to occur without the threat of damage. The rest of the harvest season saw cooler temperatures alternate with short warmer spells, which helped winemakers target optimum ripening of the fruit. Crop yields were average and berry size was small to medium.

WINEMAKING

Pinot Noir clusters for this wine were hand sorted before being de-stemmed and gravity fed to fermenters. The must was immediately chilled for a pre-fermentation cold soak where the most beneficial extraction of color, aroma and flavor occurs. During fermentation, concentration was enhanced by gently punching down the cap several times per day. The wine aged 11 months in French oak barrels with 33% new French oak and was bottled on August 28, 2017.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is a superb representation of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir featuring vibrant fruit aromatics and a rich profile. Expressive aromas of black raspberry and Bing cherry are highlighted by hints of earth, black peppercorn and a touch of oak. On the palate, hints of cherry cola, black cherry and spice give way to a velvety mid-palate and lush, lingering finish. Soft tannins and a balanced acid profile make this wine ready to drink now, though it will continue to develop with additional time in the cellar.