



**WINEMAKER:** Ken Brown

**VINEYARD SOURCES:** 47% Clos Pepe, 29% Fiddlestick and 24% Rio Vista Vineyards, Santa Rita Hills. Recognized as an official AVA in 2001, the Santa Rita Hills appellation is located in western Santa Ynez Valley where cool temperatures and marine fog make it ideal for premium Pinot Noir. The soils are low-fertility, well-drained sandy loam rich in calcareous matter, which promotes firm structure and pure fruit expression.

**VINTAGE:** The 2004 vintage, characterized by an early start and a warm finish, produced wines of great richness and accessibility. Warm spring temperatures triggered an early budbreak to jumpstart the growing season. Cool conditions, which are characteristic of the region, prevailed for most of the summer until early September when a heat spell lasting more than a week forced growers to pick the rapidly ripening Pinot Noir within a short window. In close cooperation with the growers, we were successful in harvesting our Pinot Noir in optimum condition.

**WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:** This wine owes its complexity to the pleasing marriage of fruit from three of Santa Rita Hills' most prestigious Pinot Noir vineyards. The wine was crafted in the gentlest manner possible in a gravity flow environment. Clusters were destemmed, then immediately chilled for a pre-fermentation cold soak where the most beneficial extraction of color, aroma and flavor occurs. During fermentation, extraction was enhanced by gently punching down the cap. The wine aged 15 months in French oak barrels, including 30% new French oak.

Displaying elements of pure, concentrated Pinot Noir fruit, this wine combines aromas of black cherry and red plum with hints of rose petal and spice. Firm tannins surround a rich core of blackberry and plum flavors, along with a nicely integrated French oak component. A silky mid-palate and well balanced acidity suggest this wine will pair well with a wide array of cuisine.

#### **TECHNICAL DATA**

T.A.: 5.71 g/l

pH: 3.61

Alcohol: 14.8%

Sugg. Retail Price: \$45.00

Production: 430 cases