



**WINEMAKER:** Ken Brown

**VINEYARD SOURCES:** Rio Vista, Clos Pepe and Sanford & Benedict Vineyards. This Pinot Noir sources grapes from three of Santa Rita Hill's most prestigious vineyards. Rio Vista Vineyard is located at the eastern end of the appellation where slightly warmer temperatures result in a rich texture, smooth tannins and dark cherry flavors in the wine. Situated further west in the Santa Rita Hills appellation, Sanford & Benedict and Clos Pepe Vineyards enjoy somewhat cooler temperatures, which promotes structure, complexity and black fruit components in the wine.

**VINTAGE:** Vintage 2006 kicked off with chilly spring temperatures and rain that extended almost into May, delaying the growing season by three to four weeks. A cool summer with no major heat spikes gave way to more cool temperatures in September and October. The grapes experienced exceptionally long hang time, resulting in superb development of aromas and flavors, as well as beautiful vineyard expression. Crop yields for Pinot Noir in Santa Rita Hills were characteristically low.

**WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:** This wine owes its alluring aromatics to the pleasing marriage of fruit from these exceptional vineyards. 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 twice a day. The wine aged 15 months in French oak barrels, including 35% new French oak.

This Pinot Noir is fragrant and pleasingly accessible, featuring fresh aromas of wild berries and a gentle spice note imparted by new French oak. The fresh fruit aromas carry through to the flavors, which include hints of wild raspberry and cherry. The texture is especially rich and smooth—the influence from Rio Vista's Pinot Noir—and glides to a silky finish with a refreshing touch of natural acidity.

#### **TECHNICAL DATA**

T.A.: 5.51 g/l

pH: 3.69

Alcohol: 14.6%

Sugg. Retail Price: \$38.00

Production: 448 cases