



VINEYARD SOURCES: *Cargasacchi Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.* This small 16-acre vineyard has become one of the stars of the Santa Rita Hills appellation. Planted in 1998, the property features Clone 115 Pinot Noir planted on 3309 rootstock. The vineyard is located at the extreme west end of Santa Rita Hills, where its proximity to the Pacific Ocean makes it one of the coolest vineyards in California. The soil type is the Botella Series, a composition of both clay and loam that has a fairly high calcareous content, which drains well and helps moderate yields.

VINTAGE: 2010 turned out to be a remarkable vintage, despite a sequence of extreme weather patterns. The growing season experienced a wet winter and an exceptionally cool spring and summer. Early October brought several days of record-breaking heat, followed by a half inch of rain a week later. In hindsight, the heat spell compensated for the cool spring and summer, providing some much needed heat units, and the rain revitalized the vines so they could successfully continue the grape ripening process. Yields at Cargasacchi averaged 1.65 tons per acre. The fruit was harvested on October 5.

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 19 months in French oak barrels with 40% new French oak and was bottled on May 16, 2012.

TASTING NOTES: This Pinot Noir is exceptionally aromatic and complex and truly epitomizes the signature richness of Cargasacchi Vineyard. Intense aromas of dark cherry and exotic earth tones are accented by a touch of truffle and white pepper. Subtle French oak expression adds a touch of spice. The flavors offer layers of complexity, supported by a remarkably rich mid palate, round tannins and a luscious finish. The wine is beautifully balanced thanks in part to the full maturity of the grapes at harvest. The components will continue to intensify and develop, becoming even more complex with additional bottle age.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.56

Alcohol: 14.7%

Production: 122 cases