



VINEYARD SOURCES: 78% *Rio Vista Vineyard*, 15% *Rita's Crown Vineyard*, 7% *Rancho La Viña*. This wine provides an excellent overview of the Sta. Rita Hills, combining Pinot Noir from all three temperature zones of the appellation. 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 on a dramatic hillside, Rita's Crown is one of the newest vineyards in Sta. Rita Hills and produces wine with a deep and extracted dark cherry and wild blackberry expression. Rancho La Viña is located at the western edge of the Sta. Rita Hills in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean, and enjoys cool, breezy conditions, which promotes deep color, intense fruit and a hint of minerality in the wine.

VINTAGE: 2010 turned out to be a remarkable vintage, despite a sequence of extreme weather patterns that, at the time, did not bode well for a great year. 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.

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 10 months in French oak barrels with 37% new French oak and was bottled on August 3, 2011.

TASTING NOTES: This Pinot Noir is a superb reflection of an incredible vintage in the Sta. Rita Hills. Lush aromas of dark, red cherry are accented by hints of plum, nutmeg and subtle earth tones. The structure is exceptionally rich with good density and soft tannins, which perfectly frames the dark cherry flavors and touch of toastiness from French oak barrels. The wine's complexity and plush texture are beautifully balanced with an undercurrent of natural acidity that culminates in a bright, lingering finish. Expect great cellar potential from this wine.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.71

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 298 cases