



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** *100% La Encantada Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills.* Located just west of the legendary Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, La Encantada is in the heart of Sta. Rita Hills' quintessential Pinot Noir zone. The estate was planted by Richard Sanford in 2001 and was one of the first vineyards in Santa Barbara County to be certified organic. Comprised of 100 acres of mostly Pinot Noir, this north-facing vineyard is planted on a ridge straddling the Santa Ynez River Valley and is open to the cooling marine breezes, which sweep in from the Pacific Ocean. Soils are a combination of clay, loam, shale and sand. The 3-acre block dedicated to Ken Brown Wines is planted to Pinot Noir clone 115.

**VINTAGE:** Mother Nature set the stage for a challenging vintage in 2011 with a hard freeze in January and frost in April, causing damage to the buds and green tissue in certain vineyards. Spring and summer brought below average temperatures, which resulted in a long, cool growing season. This, combined with lower crop yields, fostered excellent development of depth and complexity in the fruit. A light rain event in early October was followed by warm, sunny days that gave the grapes the push they needed to reach full maturity. Grapes from La Encantada were harvested on October 25.

**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 16 months in French oak barrels with 34% new French oak and was bottled on March 6, 2013.

**TASTING NOTES:** This wine represents our first release from the outstanding La Encantada Vineyard, and displays classic Sta. Rita Hills character. A gorgeous ruby color in the glass is matched by intense aromatics and an elegant, stylish texture on the palate. Rich aromas of blackberry and dark cherry are accented by an undercurrent of earth tones and a touch of minerality. A velvety mouthfeel beautifully supports the black cherry and dark berry flavors and culminates in an opulent, lingering finish with a touch of French oak spice in the background. The wine's approachable tannins and superb balance assure great cellar potential.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.4 g/l

pH: 3.64

Alcohol: 14.2%

Production: 152 cases