



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** *100% Cargasacchi Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills.* This small 16-acre vineyard is 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:** Contrary to the erratic weather of the 2010 and 2011 vintages, 2012 featured very favorable, well-timed weather patterns throughout the growing season. Winter rainfall was below average, but showers in March replenished the soil profile just as the vines were beginning the growth cycle. Consistently cool summer temperatures and several warm spells in September and October helped fully ripen the fruit. Crop size was characteristically small, which promoted concentration and complexity in the fruit. Grapes from Cargasacchi Vineyard were hand-harvested on October 8.

**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 38% new French oak and was bottled on August 14, 2013.

**TASTING NOTES:** This exceedingly aromatic and complex wine is perhaps our finest Cargasacchi Pinot Noir to date. Dramatic aromas of deep dark cherry with hints of fresh tilled earth, black truffle and white pepper leap out of the glass. The palate features an explosion of ripe dark cherry and blackberry flavors with a touch of slate, cured meat and French oak-inspired spice. Its firm structure and intense concentration are beautifully balanced by smooth tannins and an opulent richness. The components will continue to intensify and develop, becoming even more complex with additional bottle age, assuring great longevity for this remarkable Pinot Noir.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.70

Alcohol: 14.6%

Production: 95 cases