



**VINEYARD SOURCE:** *100% Clos Pepe Vineyard (Sta. Rita Hills)*. This family-run estate is a small jewel in the highly regarded Sta. Rita Hills appellation with only 28 acres of vines (24 of which are planted to Pinot Noir). The vineyard is farmed with meticulous attention to detail, year-round hand labor and sustainable agriculture methods. The soils are low-vigor, sandy loam and are rich in calcareous shale. The block sourced for Ken Brown Pinot Noir is planted to the Pommard clone.

**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 Clos Pepe were harvested on September 29 and October 3.

**WINEMAKING:** Pinot Noir clusters from the Clos Pepe Vineyard were hand sorted before being de-stemmed and 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. As soon as the wine reached dryness, it was pressed and transferred to 60-gallon French oak barrels where it aged for 10 months. About 38% of the barrels were new French oak. The wine was bottled on August 14, 2013.

**TASTING NOTES:** This wine truly delivers the exquisite richness, aromatic intensity and alluring flavor profile of classic Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir. Aromas of black cherry and black raspberry are complemented by nuances of fresh earth, rose petals and a seashell-like minerality. Opulent flavors gracefully greet the palate with hints of dark berry, white pepper and a quiet background of lightly toasted French oak. The wine is beautifully integrated, with velvety tannins, cool-climate acidity and refined texture all in balance. Silky and complex, this classic Pinot Noir culminates in a prolonged finish and will enjoy exceptional ageability.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.8 g/l

pH: 3.63

Alcohol: 14.7%

Production: 228 cases