



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** 39% Rio Vista Vineyard, 24% Garey Vineyard, 15% Nielson Vineyard, 14% Sierra Madre Vineyard and 8% Buena Terra Vineyard. This wine showcases some of the finest estates in Santa Barbara County. About 53% of the blend comes from Santa Maria Valley including the Garey, Nielson and Sierra Madre Vineyards. Pinot Noir grapes from these vineyards contribute earth tones, spice and lush texture to the wine. The balance of the blend (47%) hails from Sta. Rita Hills, specifically Rio Vista and Buena Terra vineyards whose grapes add the luscious dark cherry aromatics and flavors and smooth tannins found in the wine.

**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.

**WINEMAKING:** Pinot Noir clusters for this wine were hand sorted before being destemmed 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 11 months in French oak barrels with 34% new French oak and was bottled on August 13, 2013.

**TASTING NOTES:** This wine is luscious and fruit forward with appealing aromatics, expressive flavors and a rich, plush texture. Aromas of dark cherry are accented by subtle earth tones and a hint of cinnamon stick. The lush aromatics give way to classic Pinot Noir fruit flavors of cherry and blackberry enveloped in well balanced, soft tannins. The wine culminates in a rich, harmonious finish with a touch of spice. While the very drinkable style of this wine makes it enjoyable upon release, extended cellar aging for six years or more will promote even more depth and complexity in both flavor and aromatics.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.71

Alcohol: 14.2%

Production: 656 cases