



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** 100% *Rita's Crown Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills*. Planted in 2007, Rita's Crown has quickly become one of the most highly regarded vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. The estate is located at an elevation of 600 to 950 feet on a dramatic southwest-facing slope at the "crown" of the Santa Rita Hills, making it one of the highest planted vineyards in the AVA. Its elevation makes this site particularly exposed to coastal fog and cool marine breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean, ideal for the production of premium quality Pinot Noir. The soils are sandy loam with ancient seashell deposits. The blocks used for this Pinot Noir are planted to Dijon clones 667, 777 and 828 on 101-14 rootstock.

**VINTAGE:** 2013 is hailed as a near perfect vintage across the state of California, described as "early, even and excellent." Harvest began about two weeks earlier than normal in Santa Barbara County and weather patterns were ideal—every week brought a warm up followed by a cool down in temperatures. This pattern allowed grapes to develop slowly and evenly, enabling winemakers to pick at the perfect ripeness. A lack of rain during the harvest season also contributed to grape quality. Yields were slightly above normal due to a greater number of clusters on each vine, but berry size remained small. Grapes from Rita's Crown were harvested on September 24 and 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 19 months in French oak barrels with 36% new French oak and was bottled on May 12, 2015.

**TASTING NOTES:** This Pinot Noir from Rita's Crown is dense and rich with alluring, well integrated aromatics and flavors. Vibrant wild cherry and plum aromas mingle with hints of fresh earth, pink peppercorn and a subtle mineral component. On the palate, ripe cherry flavors are enhanced by a touch of pomegranate, dark chocolate and rose petals. The rich Pinot Noir flavors, balanced acid profile and soft tannins give the wine an exceptionally luxurious texture from start to finish, assuring graceful development and excellent cellar potential.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.51

Alcohol: 14.7%

Production: 323 cases