



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** 36% *Radian Vineyard*, 32% *Rio Vista Vineyard*, 21% *Buona Terra* and 11% *Rita's Crown Vineyard (Sta. Rita Hills)*. This wine is a beautiful overview of the Sta. Rita Hills, combining Pinot Noir from across the temperature zones of the appellation. Rio Vista Vineyard represents the eastern end of the appellation where temperatures are slightly warmer. Further west is Rita's Crown situated at high elevation, where it is exposed to marine fog and winds. Buona Terra Vineyard is located at the western end of Sta. Rita Hills in a somewhat protective pocket. Radian is the coldest vineyard in the appellation. Its location in the southwest corner of the AVA is unsheltered from direct exposure to cold winds and fog from the Pacific.

**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.

**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 32% new French oak and was bottled on September 5, 2014.

**TASTING NOTES:** This wine is a superb representation of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir featuring bright fruit aromatics and a rich, silky profile. Aromas of dark cherry and black raspberry are highlighted by hints of cinnamon, nutmeg, toasty oak and seashell. On the palate, complex dark cherry and spice components give way to a bright lift of acidity and a touch of cocoa on the finish. The wine's plush tannins, balanced acid profile and long, lingering finish suggest this Pinot Noir is poised to age gracefully for years to come.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 6.1 g/l

pH: 3.68

Alcohol: 14.3%

Production: 416 cases