



## 2015 ZOTOVICH VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	5.77 g/l
pH	3.63
Alcohol	14.1%
Production	92 cases

### VINEYARD

#### *100% Zotovich Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills*

The Zotovich Vineyard is a family-owned property dedicated to cultivating superior quality Pinot Noir that truly reflects the vineyard site. Farming at the Zotovich estate focuses on land stewardship, restricting yields and maximizing grape quality. Located in the northern corridor of Sta. Rita Hills, the vineyard enjoys cool Pacific breezes and coastal fog, which contribute to the wine's rich texture and signature dark berry aromas and flavors. The block sourced for Ken Brown Wines is planted to clone 114.

### VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage is a record vintage in many ways. It was the earliest harvest on record, eclipsing the previous 2014 record by up to two weeks for most varieties. A relatively mild winter led to an early start to the ripening cycle. Once buds began to push, mild spring weather allowed them to develop at an accelerated pace uninterrupted by spring frosts. Yields were also record low, especially in Pinot Noir, averaging 30-50% below historical averages. Near perfect ripening conditions coupled with small berry size resulted in superb quality fruit. Grapes from Zotovich Vineyard were harvested on August 18.

### 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 11 months in French oak barrels with 29% new French oak and was bottled on August 9, 2016.

### TASTING NOTES

Pure, vibrant aromas of blackberry and black cherry are accented by hints of pomegranate, black tea and subtle French oak. The flavors are concentrated and rich with notes of dark cherry, pomegranate, plum and a touch of pink peppercorn. The mouthfeel is lush and luxurious, thanks in part to the sandy soil component at Zotovich Vineyard. While this wine is very drinkable upon release, its soft, beautifully integrated tannins ensure superb cellar potential and even greater complexity as the wine ages.