



## 2020 STA. RITA HILLS PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	6.0 g/l
pH	3.65
Alcohol	14.1%
Production	337 cases

### VINEYARDS

*36% Rio Vista, 29% Peake Ranch, 28% Radian, 7% Sanford & Benedict*

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. The rest of the vineyards sourced for this wine are located further west in the heart of Sta. Rita Hills' cool Pinot Noir zone. Marine winds and coastal fog combined with lean soils make Sta. Rita Hills ideal for the cultivation of world-class Pinot Noir.

### VINTAGE

Fast-paced and at times challenging, Sta Rita Hills' 2020 vintage was spared from wildfire damage experienced in other areas of California and produced outstanding fruit. Harvest began slightly earlier than normal with our first Pinot Noir pick on August 24. A Labor Day weekend heat spell nudged several of our Pinot Noir vineyards to ideal ripeness and by September 8, about 60% of our grapes had been harvested. Cooler temperatures resumed and we completed the Pinot Noir harvest on September 18. Overall, grapes were beautifully expressive with pure fruit aromatics and flavors, excellent color, and superb structure.

### 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 gentle punch-downs several times per day. The wine aged 11 months in French oak barrels with 29% new French oak and was bottled unfinned and unfiltered on August 3, 2021.

### TASTING NOTES

This wine is an authentic portrayal of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir featuring brilliant fruit aromatics and a rich profile. Aromas of black cherry and raspberry are highlighted by hints of rhubarb, mushroom and white pepper. On the palate, luscious notes of strawberry compote and baking spices give way to a velvety mid-palate and prolonged finish. Youthful tannins and a balanced acid profile make this wine ready to drink now, though it will continue to develop with additional time in the cellar.