



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** 54% *Rita's Crown Vineyard*, 46% *Rio Vista Vineyard*, *Sta. Rita Hills*. This wine is a beautiful blend, combining Pinot Noir from two distinct temperature zones of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. Rio Vista Vineyard is located at the eastern end of the appellation where slightly warmer temperatures result in a rich texture, smooth tannins and dark cherry flavors in the wine. Situated further west on a dramatic hillside, Rita's Crown is one of the newest vineyards in Sta. Rita Hills and produces wine with a deep and extracted dark cherry and wild blackberry expression.

**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. Grapes from Rita's Crown were harvested on September 26 (clone 777) and 28 (clone 828), while Rio Vista Pinot Noir was picked in three stages on September 26 (clone 667), 29 (clone 777) and October 3 (clone 115).

**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 10 months in French oak barrels with 37% new French oak and was bottled on August 13, 2013.

**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 cherry cola, pomegranate and violets are highlighted by an undercurrent of rose petals, baking spices and a touch of minerality. On the palate, dark fruit components with earth tones and hints of porcini mushroom give way to flavors of black cherry and cinnamon spice. 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.: 5.6 g/l

pH: 3.63

Alcohol: 14.3%

Production: 535 cases