



**VINEYARD SOURCES:** 60% *Rio Vista*, 20% *La Encantada*, 20% *Rita's Crown*, *Sta. Rita Hills*. This harmonious Pinot Noir blends fruit from three exceptional Sta. Rita Hills estates. The wine is anchored by the luscious, ripe fruit from Rio Vista Vineyard, located at the slightly warmer eastern end of the appellation. The balance of the blend is split between La Encantada Vineyard, a cooler, north-facing vineyard situated in the heart of Sta. Rita Hills, and Rita's Crown, the dramatic hillside vineyard whose high elevation makes it particularly exposed to cool marine breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean.

**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 10 months in French oak barrels with 32% new French oak and was bottled on September 5, 2014.

**TASTING NOTES:** This Pinot Noir is an especially genial blend, beautifully balanced, silky and lush. Attractive aromas of ripe cherry and fresh earth tones are accented by hints of cracked black pepper and lightly toasted almond. The palate features luscious flavors of Bing cherry and black cherry with subtle notes of fresh tobacco and an appealing touch of spice on the finish. The texture is elegant and sensual, providing a velvety background from start to finish. The drinkable style of this wine makes it enjoyable upon release, but the components will continue to intensify and develop, becoming even more complex with additional bottle age.

#### TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.9 g/l

pH: 3.65

Alcohol: 14.2%

Production: 217 cases