



VINEYARD SOURCES: 48% Rio Vista, 22% Buona Terra, 8% Nielson, 8% Rita's Crown, 6% Radian, 5% Zotovich, 3% Clos Pepe. This wine showcases some of the finest Pinot Noir vineyards in Santa Barbara County, including top estates in Sta. Rita Hills. The backbone of the wine is Pinot Noir from Rio Vista Vineyard, located at the eastern end of Sta. Rita Hills where slightly warmer temperatures result in luscious dark cherry aromatics and smooth tannins in the wine. The balance of the blend combines cool climate Sta. Rita Hills fruit with a touch of Pinot Noir from the Nielson Vineyard in Santa Maria Valley for an exceptional, beautifully integrated wine.

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 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 30% new French oak and was bottled on September 9, 2014.

TASTING NOTES: This wine is charming and bright with a dark garnet color, lively fruit forward aromatics and rich, expressive flavors. Aromas of deep red cherry are interwoven with ripe strawberry notes accented by hints of cinnamon and licorice. The lush aromatics give way to classic Pinot Noir fruit expression enveloped in well-balanced, soft tannins. The wine culminates in a rich, harmonious finish. While the very drinkable style of this wine makes it enjoyable upon release, extended cellar aging for six to eight years past the vintage date will promote even more depth and complexity in both flavor and aromatics.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.9 g/l

pH: 3.71

Alcohol: 14.2%

Production: 787 cases