



VINEYARD SOURCES: 100% *Rita's Crown Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills*. Planted in 2007, Rita's Crown has quickly become one of the most highly regarded vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. The estate is located at an elevation of 600 to 950 feet on a dramatic southwest-facing slope at the "crown" of the Santa Rita Hills, making it one of the highest planted vineyards in the AVA. Its elevation makes this site particularly exposed to coastal fog and cool marine breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean, ideal for the production of premium quality Pinot Noir. The soils are sandy loam with ancient seashell deposits. The blocks used for this Pinot Noir are planted to Dijon clones 777, 828, 115 and 667 on 101-14 rootstock.

VINTAGE: The 2014 vintage made history as the earliest harvest on record in Santa Barbara County. It was also the shortest in duration, commencing on August 25 and concluding just 32 days later. The growing season began with a very mild winter and below average rainfall for the third year in a row. Budbreak occurred in early March followed by warm, even temperatures throughout the spring and summer. Yields were a touch above average in most vineyards, though slightly lower than 2013. Grapes from Rita's Crown were harvested on August 25 and September 16.

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 33% new French oak and was bottled on August 13, 2015.

TASTING NOTES: This Pinot Noir from Rita's Crown is extraordinarily complex with well integrated, complementary aromatics and flavors. Vibrant dark cherry and red plum aromas mingle with hints of dark rose petals, cracked pepper and clove. On the palate, rich berry and ripe cherry flavors are enhanced by a touch of cinnamon, dark chocolate and vanilla bean. The rich Pinot Noir flavors, balanced acid profile and soft tannins give the wine an exceptionally luxurious texture from start to finish, assuring graceful development and excellent cellar potential.

TECHNICAL DATA

T.A.: 5.4 g/l

pH: 3.70

Alcohol: 14.5%

Production: 279 cases