



2015 RANCHO LA VIÑA PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	5.50 g/l
pH	3.63
Alcohol	14.2%
Production	138 cases

VINEYARD

100% Rancho La Viña, Sta. Rita Hills

This remarkable vineyard is located at the far western edge on the south side of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. The 17-acre site was planted in 2005 on a gently sloped mesa, which is several hundred feet above the valley floor. The vines are fully exposed to the cool winds coming off the Pacific Ocean, making it one of the coldest Pinot Noir plantings in California. The block used for Ken Brown Wines is planted to Pinot Noir clone 115.

VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage is a record vintage in many ways. It was the earliest harvest on record, eclipsing the previous 2014 record by up to two weeks for most varieties. A relatively mild winter led to an early start to the ripening cycle. Once buds began to push, mild spring weather allowed them to develop at an accelerated pace uninterrupted by spring frosts. Yields were also record low, especially in Pinot Noir, averaging 30-50% below historical averages. Near perfect ripening conditions coupled with small berry size resulted in superb quality fruit. Grapes from Rancho La Viña were harvested on August 25.

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 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 August 9, 2016.

TASTING NOTES

A classic example of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir, this wine displays a beautiful garnet color, rich undertones and an appealing brightness from the pure fruit expression. Aromas of mixed berries are enhanced by earth tones, such as sagebrush and the riparian flora of Santa Barbara County. Flavors of dark cherry and black plum are accented by hints of anise with a lingering allspice finish. The wine is well structured with elegance to drink early on, or to cellar for even greater complexity as the wine ages.