



2016 LA ENCANTADA VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	6.5 g/L
pH	3.70
Alcohol	14.8%
Production	217 cases

VINEYARD

100% La Encantada Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills

Located just west of the legendary Sanford & Benedict Vineyard, La Encantada is in the heart of Sta. Rita Hills' quintessential Pinot Noir zone. The estate was planted by Richard Sanford in 2001. Comprised of 100 acres of mostly Pinot Noir, this north-facing vineyard is planted on a ridge straddling the Santa Ynez River Valley and is open to cooling marine breezes, which sweep in from the Pacific Ocean. Soils are a combination of clay, loam, shale and sand. Grapes sourced for this Pinot Noir came from Block 5 planted to the Swan selection.

VINTAGE

The 2016 growing season began with unseasonably warm weather in February, moderated by cold nighttime temperatures, which suppressed budbreak until early March. While the limited winter rainfall was disappointing, the timing was advantageous. Most precipitation fell January through March, allowing flowering and set to occur without the threat of damage. The rest of the harvest season saw cooler temperatures alternate with short warmer spells, which helped winemakers target optimum ripening of the fruit. La Encantada Pinot Noir was harvested on September 20.

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. 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 in the barrel mix. The wine was bottled on August 28, 2017.

TASTING NOTES

Perfumed, elegant and complex, this Pinot Noir beautifully expresses the hallmark traits of La Encantada Vineyard. Aromas of black cherry and black raspberry are accented by hints of earth, cardamom and toasted brioche. The texture—luxurious and velvety—supports appealing notes of plum, cherry, mushroom, chocolate and a touch of clove, culminating in a long, supple finish. The wine's superb balance and layers of complexity ensure great cellar potential.