



2017 LA ENCANTADA VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	6.7 g/L
pH	3.43
Alcohol	14.2%
Production	193 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

Abundant winter rainfall in 2017 helped ease a five-year drought in California, replenishing soils and leaching out any accumulated salts. Mild spring weather averted any frost issues, and set the stage for excellent bloom and set. A heat spike in early September sent grape sugars soaring toward ripeness and vintners hastened the pace to keep up. Cool temperatures quickly returned, and remained cool for the rest of the harvest season. Yields ranged from average to up to 50% below average, resulting in excellent concentration and intensity in the fruit. La Encantada Pinot Noir was harvested on September 13.

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 10 months in French oak barrels with 33% new French oak in the barrel mix. The wine was bottled on August 9, 2018.

TASTING NOTES

Perfumy, elegant and complex, this Pinot Noir beautifully expresses the hallmark traits of La Encantada Vineyard. Aromas of wild cherry, strawberry and pomegranate are accented by hints of red currant, herbes de Provence and spice. The perfectly structured texture supports appealing notes of dark cherry, red plum, forest floor and a touch of spiced vanilla, culminating in a long, graceful finish. The wine's superb balance and layers of complexity ensure great cellar potential.