



2017 RANCHO LA VIÑA PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	5.7 g/l
pH	3.60
Alcohol	14.1%
Production	156 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

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. Pinot Noir from Rancho La Viña was harvested on September 14.

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 29% new French oak and was bottled on August 28, 2018.

TASTING NOTES

This Pinot Noir features pure fruit expression woven with layers of complexity, a testament to this low vigor site. Aromas of dark cherry, plum and subtle earth tones are enhanced by hints of smokiness, baking spices and floral notes. Flavors of cherry, blueberry compote and allspice culminate in a long finish with a hint of cola. The wine's velvety richness is nicely balanced by the bright acidity typical of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir. Additional cellaring will add even more complexity to this wine, assuring excellent aging potential.