



## 2018 ENVISION PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	6.0 g/l
pH	3.37
Alcohol	14.1%
Production	205 cases

## VINEYARDS

*55% Radian Vineyard, 33% Rancho La Viña, 12% Sanford & Benedict Vineyard*

Sta. Rita Hills is home to some of the planet's finest Pinot Noir vineyards. The Pinot Noir grape excels at expressing its natural environment, making each vineyard distinctive in its own way. *Envision* gives life to the special sense of place that is the Sta. Rita Hills by bringing together the vineyards that best reflect this marine-swept appellation. Ken curates the best lots into an exceptional blend, representing a unique sensory image of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir.

## VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage was our latest harvest since 2012. Late rains in March were well-timed and budbreak occurred about two weeks later than recent averages. Temperatures throughout the spring and summer remained cool. Nighttime temperatures were consistently chilly as well, in the low to mid-50s, ideal for retaining the natural acidity in the grapes. Canopies were healthy and well positioned to go the distance to ripen the fruit. Berries were small, and yields were customarily low, resulting in excellent concentration and intensity in the fruit. Pinot Noir grapes for this blend were harvested between September 21 and October 2.

## 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 17 months in French oak barrels, six months longer than our Sta. Rita Hills blend. There was 33% new French oak in the barrel mix and the wine was bottled on March 4, 2020.

## TASTING NOTES

Regal and complex, the 2018 *Envision* Pinot Noir is a beautiful portrayal of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. Intense aromas of fresh Bing cherry, forest floor and truffle are highlighted by notes of white pepper and clove. On the palate, hints of ripe raspberry, rhubarb and toasted almond give way to a nicely structured mid-palate, elegant tannins and a long, lingering finish. Additional time in the bottle will add even more layers of complexity to this wine, assuring excellent aging potential.