



2018 RANCHO LA VIÑA PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	6.25 g/l
pH	3.50
Alcohol	14.2%
Production	137 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 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 from Rancho La Viña was harvested on September 22.

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 10 months in French oak barrels with 20% new French oak and was bottled on August 21, 2019.

TASTING NOTES

This Pinot Noir features a luxurious aromatic profile with pure fruit expression interwoven with layers of complexity. Aromas of dark cherry, ripe plum and leather are enhanced by hints of forest floor, smokiness and clove. Flavors of black cherry, cranberry and rhubarb give way to rich, chalky tannins accented by refreshing acidity and a long finish. Additional cellaring will add even more complexity to this wine, assuring excellent aging potential.