



2018 RITA'S CROWN VINEYARD "BLOCK 25" PINOT NOIR

Appellation	Sta. Rita Hills
T.A.	5.6 g/l
pH	3.60
Alcohol	14.1%
Production	119 cases

VINEYARD

100% Rita's Crown Vineyard

Planted in 2007, Rita's Crown is one of the most highly regarded vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills appellation. The estate is located at an elevation of 600 to 950 feet on a dramatic southwest-facing slope at the "crown" of the Santa Rita Hills. Its elevation makes this site particularly exposed to coastal fog and cool marine breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean, ideal for the production of outstanding Pinot Noir. The soils are sandy loam with ancient seashell deposits. This wine hails from Block 25 planted to Dijon clone 667.

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. Rita's Crown Block 25 Pinot Noir was harvested on September 29.

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 9 months in French oak barrels with 40% new French oak and was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered on August 1, 2019.

TASTING NOTES

This special bottling from Rita's Crown Vineyard Block 25 beautifully showcases the richness and velvety texture this section of the vineyard is known for. Elegant aromas of black cherry and raspberry are highlighted by hints of smoked meat, cocoa and vanilla. On the palate, flavors of ripe plum and dark cherry along with a touch of cedar and cinnamon lead to a luxuriously long finish. The wine will continue to develop in complexity and depth with additional bottle age.