



## WINEMAKER NOTES

Elegant and 'old-world' spice-box aromatics with umami, minerality, and the smell of the Santa Barbara mountains when on a hike. The generous and supple mouthfeel on the palate is powered by flavors of plums/pluots, wild strawberries, and dark cherries. 50% whole-cluster fermentation adds texture and weight, providing length and allowing the complex spice-driven aromatics to come into harmony with the rich texture and purity of fruit on the palate. Made with fruit from multiple sites within the Sta. Rita Hills and aged in 20% new French oak.

Vineyard sources: *Yard Vineyard* – 45%, *Las Hermanas* – 27%, *Teresa-Noel* – 15%, *Rancho la Viña* – 13%

## WINEMAKING

Cases:	605
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills AVA
Varietal composition:	100% Pinot Noir
Clonal selection:	667, 777, 114, 115, Pommard
% Whole cluster:	50%
Soil at site:	Sand, sand/loam, clay/loam, limestone
Barrels   Aging:	20% New French oak, 80% neutral French oak   11 months in barrel
Alcohol:	13.8%
Brix:	22.5-24
pH at harvest:	3.23 – 3.37
Finished pH:	3.57
Finished TA:	6.4 g/L
Harvest date:	9/6/2017-9/12/2017
Bottling date:	September 2018
Release date:	Spring 2020

## 2017 VINTAGE

Winter rain between 2016 and 2017 was a welcome relief from the severe 5-year drought. The 2017 growing season was extremely moderate, the only exception being a pre-harvest heat spike and some tropical moisture, followed by more moderate weather through harvest's end. The wines retain very bright acidity, with full and ripe flavors.

## STA. RITA HILLS AVA

The Sta. Rita Hills AVA is significantly impacted by its proximity to the ocean (10 miles), consistent morning/evening fog, and steady afternoon winds. These cooling trends are not only perfectly suited to growing Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Grenache, and Syrah but also serve to prolong the growing season, allowing for heightened varietal flavor intensity. Additionally, the area's cool climate and vineyards' calcareous rock and sand help produce grapes with natural acidity and flavor balance.

## ACCOLADES

93 points, Wine Enthusiast *"This appellation blend offers aromas of cracked pepper, sagebrush, fennel frond and wild thyme on the savory nose. The palate brings flavors of black raspberry and roasted tomato spiced with abundant peppercorns."*  
Matt Kettmann, Aug 2020

92 points, Wine Advocate *"The 2017 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills is a delicate, perfumed Pinot with a medium ruby color and scents of dried cranberries, blackberries and blueberries plus notes of bergamot, tree bark and earth. The palate is light to medium-bodied with bright, bitters-laced flavors, a soft frame and nuanced finish."*  
Erin Brooks, Oct 2020