



WINEMAKER NOTES

Complex and layered fruit aromatics of wild berries, dried apricots, ‘mixed berry pie’ and what we’re calling ‘dessert’ aromatics. Dark cherries and concentrated fruit flavors complemented by anise and clove spiciness. Dense, juicy, and mouth coating texture, backed up by firm and balanced tannins. This wine will really benefit from time in the cellar and will age the most gracefully of all our 2017 Pinots.

WINEMAKING

Cases:	63
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills AVA
Varietal composition:	100% Pinot Noir
Clonal selection:	Pommard
% Whole cluster:	40%
Soil at site:	Sand/Loam/Clay
Barrels Aging:	100% neutral French oak 18 months
Alcohol:	13.5%
Brix:	22.6
pH at harvest:	3.23
Finished pH:	3.49
Finished TA:	6.6 g/L
Harvest date:	9/12/2017
Bottling date:	April 2019
Release date:	Summer 2020

2017 VINTAGE

Drought conditions began to lessen. We received our first significant rainfall since 2011/2012 in the winter between 2016 and 2017. Not nearly enough to get out of the drought, but enough to provide relief to our seriously stressed vines. We experienced another warm spring and summer, but not as extreme as 2013-2016. Despite the challenging conditions, the fruit was in good condition at harvest.

KESSLER-HAAK VINEYARD

Planted in 2005, Kessler-Haak Vineyard sits on 29 acres of east-facing rolling hillsides in the cooler northwestern portion of the Sta. Rita Hills. The soils vary from sandy to sandy loam with patches of clay loam. Seven Pinot Noir clones are planted on 3 different rootstocks with low yields averaging 1.2 – 1.5 ton/acre. Although not certified, vineyard practices are strictly organic. No pesticides or herbicides are used and weed control is done mechanically. Pest control is done through natural predators, such as hawks, badgers, and coyotes.

ACCOLADES

92 Points - Wine Advocate *The 2017 Pinot Noir Kessler Haak Vineyard has a nose of cranberries and Earl Grey tea leaves with notes of cola and forest floor. The palate is light to medium-bodied with spice and earth-laced fruits, softly framed and juicy with an uplifted finish. 63 cases were made.* -Erin Brooks

91 Points - Wine Enthusiast *Candied red-cherry and raspberry-jam aromas meet with chaparral, sagebrush and cracked pepper touches on the nose of this bottling. It's fairly light in texture on the palate, where tangy raspberry and red-plum-skin flavors ride strong acidity.* -Matt Kettmann