



WINEMAKER NOTES

More lush and powerful aromatics, the kind you can get lost in. Rich and textural with substantial weight on the palate. Lots of fruit focus and flavor concentration. Good structure and acidity to balance out the flavor density and power of this wine.

WINEMAKING

Cases:	48
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills AVA
Varietal composition:	100% Pinot Noir
Clonal selection:	Pommard
% Whole cluster:	66%
Soil at site:	Sand/Loam
Barrels Aging:	50% New French oak, 50% neutral French oak 20 months in barrel
Alcohol:	14.2%
Brix:	22.6
pH at harvest:	3.23
Finished pH:	3.45
Finished TA:	6.6 g/L
Harvest date:	9/12/2017
Bottling date:	May 2019
Release date:	September 2021

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

95+ Points - Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Pinot Noir Reserve Lotus represents the best barrels of the vintage, and it's aged an extra year before release. Medium ruby, it features bright kirsch, bitter citrus, mushrooms and dark spices on the nose with wafts of potpourri. The palate is drinking beautifully, its seamless, silky structure and fresh acidity supporting intense fruits, and it has a long, mineral-driven finish. It deserves another 2-3 years in bottle." - Erin Brooks

95 Points - Jeb Dunnuck

"Last of the Pinot Noirs, the 2017 Pinot Noir Lotus can be thought of as the flagship cuvée and saw 60% stems and 50% new oak. It reveals a ruby/plum hue that's semi-opaque. Gorgeous cherry, redcurrants, stems, and spice notes emerge on the nose, and it has a meaty, complex, layered style, medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful tannins, and a great finish. It's another head-turning, singular, complex, Burgundian wine from this estate I'd be thrilled to drink any time over the coming 10-12 years, if not longer." - Jeb Dunnuck