



## WINEMAKER NOTES

Clean, pure dark berry aromatics, mouth-coating texture on palate helps round out the bright acidity and red fruit/pomegranate punch on the finish. This lush and complex wine has great depth and an extra-long, lingering finish.

## WINEMAKING

Cases:	42
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills AVA
Varietal composition:	100% Pinot Noir
% Whole cluster:	70%
Barrels   Aging:	50% new French oak, 50% neutral French oak   14 months in barrel
Alcohol:	13.7%
Brix:	23.8-24.2
pH at harvest:	3.12-3.34
Finished pH:	3.59
Finished TA:	6.2 g/L
Harvest date:	9/13/2018, 10/2/2018
Bottling date:	February 2020
Release date:	October 2022

## 2018 VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage is the stuff dreams are made of. The most 'classic' Santa Barbara County vintage of the decade with a cool, long growing season. A very 'civilized' harvest with no dramatic heat events or adverse weather. We were finally out of the half-decade drought thanks to the heavy rainfall in 2017, and vineyards were healthy and happy. Yields were moderate with some sites being slightly below average. The slightly low yields combined with extra 'hang-time' in 2018 resulted in super balanced and physiologically ripe fruit.

## 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

92 Points - Wine & Spirits *A Sta. Rita Hills reserve from several vineyards, this wine is exceptionally well-built, powerfully structured and youthful for a 2018. Scents of black cherry and cedar have an earthy, peppery component that's grounding and fairly intense; over two days the wine budged, but slowly. It needs cellar time. -P.J.C.*

91 Points - Wine Enthusiast *Smashed plum, cinnamon, tomato confit and a touch of chili powder show on the layered nose of this bottling. Tart plum and herb flavors meet with a richer candied cherry note on the palate, which is dusted in cracked rainbow peppercorn spice. - Matt Kettmann*