



WINEMAKER NOTES

Earthy yet bright on the nose with notes of orange marmalade and cloves, red licorice and warm holiday spices. Hints of charcoal and wet gravel also sneak in. On the palate this wine has a layered, textural mouthfeel with fine-grained tannins and bright acidity.

WINEMAKING

Cases:	85
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills
Varietal composition:	100% Syrah
Clonal selection:	Clone 470
% Whole cluster:	50%
Soil at site:	Sand/Loam/Limestone
Barrels Aging:	100% neutral French oak 21 months
Alcohol:	14%
Brix:	23.5
pH at harvest:	3.36
Finished pH:	3.68
Finished TA:	5.5 g/L
Harvest date:	10/11/2019
Bottling date:	August 2021
Release date:	September 2022

2019 VINTAGE

2019 was a near perfectly 'normal' cool-climate Santa Barbara vintage. The kind of normal it feels like we rarely see anymore. Plenty of rainfall early in the year and moderate summer weather gave us an even growing season and a balanced crop. Chardonnay and Pinot began ripening in early-mid September. We didn't see the super extreme heat during the beginning of harvest, allowing for a steady and civilized pick schedule. The 2019 wines show good flavor concentration and depth from the extra hangtime, while still retaining their balance and freshness.

JOHN SEBASTIANO VINEYARD

John Sebastiano Vineyard is a picturesque site, planted to steep hillsides and rolling hills on the eastern end of Sta. Rita Hills. Both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir thrive in this sandy, windy site, and the cool-climate Syrah we produce here just barely achieves ripeness and is always the final pick of the vintage. The elevation and exposed hillsides of the vineyard lead to low-yields and fruit with balance, depth, and complexity.

ACCOLADES

95 points - Wine Enthusiast *Fresh and snappy aromas of black raspberry are dusted in light pepper, crumpled roses and a hint of violet on the nose of this bottling. It's simultaneously tight in texture and yet juicy in flavor on the palate, offering cherry, strawberry and rose in waves.* - Matt Kettmann

93 Points - Vinous *The 2019 Syrah John Sebastiano Vineyard is packed with blue/purplish fruit, lavender, spice, mocha and lavender. There's quite a bit of stem influence, but the whole clusters are pretty much buried by the intensity of the fruit. This potent, deep Syrah delivers the goods. It's a terrific example of Syrah from the eastern edge of the appellation.* -Antonio Galloni

92 Points - Wine & Spirits *From a vineyard toward the eastern edge of the appellation, this wine has the ripeness of candied berries, fragrant and dark, with blackberry flavor that's lined by a cardamom-scented edge. It's ripe but firm, reined in by a sanguine, gamey savor.* - P.J.C.