



WINEMAKER NOTES

Spice driven and savory, this Pinot has bright acidity complemented by texture and weight. Bright red fruits and dried leaves on the nose resonate on the palate.

WINEMAKING

Cases:	81
Appellation:	Sta. Rita Hills
Varietal composition:	100% Pinot Noir
Clonal selection:	Pommard
% Whole cluster:	40%
Soil at site:	Loam/Chert/Clay
Barrels Aging:	25% new French oak 12 months
Alcohol:	13.2
Brix:	21.3-23.8
pH at harvest:	3.37-3.46
Finished pH:	3.73
Finished TA:	6.0 g/L
Harvest date:	9-5-9.16/2020
Bottling date:	August 2021
Release date:	January 2023

2020 VINTAGE

2020 was a whirlwind harvest in a less-than-normal year. Fruit came in relatively early due to a warm summer, but fruit quality was incredibly high. With decent rainfall, vines were healthy and a warm spring helped usher in a balanced crop. Chardonnay and Pinot began ripening in late August. A bit of heat at the beginning of harvest kicked things off with a bang, but moderate temperatures throughout the fall kept Rhônes on the vine a little longer. The 2020 wines show good flavor concentration and depth, while still retaining their balance and freshness.

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 Advocate *Pale ruby, the 2020 Pinot Noir Cuvée d'Inspiration is scented of cranberries and sour cherries with nuances of pipe tobacco, underbrush and Angostura bitters. The medium-bodied palate is chalky and fresh with a core of earthy fruit and a long, flavorful finish.* -Erin Brooks

92 points - Vinous *The 2020 Pinot Noir Cuvée d'Inspiration is noticeably dense and inward. Dried cherry, tobacco, cedar and dried flowers are some of the aromas and flavors that start to emerge over time. There is good power, but my impression is that the whole cluster influence is overpowering the fruit, at least today. The Cuvée is a good bridge between the appellation Pinot and the vineyard designates.* -Antonio Galloni

92 points - Wine Enthusiast *Brisk pomegranate and raspberry aromas are enhanced by tarragon and sansho pepper on the punchy nose of this bottling. The palate is bright with acidity yet dark in berry fruits, as herb and peppercorn flavors lead toward the finish.* -Matt Kettmann