

Foley
2019
PINOT NOIR
JA RANCH
STA. RITA HILLS

The Brand Series honors the relatives of vintner Bill Foley who settled the Texas Panhandle in the 1840s as ranchers, cattlemen and Texas Rangers. These wines combine noteworthy barrels from superior sites within our estate vineyards to unveil a unique facet or interpretation of a designated variety.

VINEYARD

There is only one way to describe the Rancho Santa Rosa vineyard: serene. Located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, these stunning hillsides feature vines that climb from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The soils are marine-based and the weather is consistently cool thanks to moist ocean breezes that sweep the property daily. The vineyard is armed with the painstaking care and attention usually associated with much smaller properties. In fact, the vineyard was originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock, and clone.

VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season was notably cooler than average through spring and summer, but a burst of heat around Labor Day gave us the push we needed to increase Brix levels to their seasonal average. The disease pressure was low, but an anomaly of hard frost the first week of October forced us to bring the fruit in quickly. Mother Nature delivered a roller coaster of weather, but with it came nuance and diversity of fruit expression.

WINEMAKING

We harvested our grapes based on the ripeness of the tannins. For Pinot Noir this usually occurs between 24.0-27.0 Brix with the 2019 coming in at 24.3°. The clusters were gently de-stemmed with no crushing. The must was cold-soaked in open-top fermenters for four days. Each tank was manually punched down throughout maceration. Upon completion of primary fermentation and maceration, the free-run wine was transferred to tank for settling. Finally, the individual lots were racked to barrels and aged for 17 months in 30% new French oak prior to blending and bottling.

TASTING

This wine exhibits aromas of orange blossom, sandalwood and cranberries. The silky palate expresses hints of pomegranate, cola, blood orange and desiccated strawberries. It has a lingering finish with fine, powdery tannins and notes of black tea and cocoa.

APPELLATION	STA. RITA HILLS
VINEYARD	JA RANCH
COMPOSITION	100% PINOT NOIR
COOPERAGE	30% NEW FRENCH OAK
AGING	17 MONTHS
ALCOHOL	14.3%
TA	6.2 G/L
PH	3.53
BOTTLING DATE	APRIL 26, 2021
PRODUCTION	404 CASES

