

## 2023 PINOT NOIR

T ANCHOR 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 Located in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, the grapes for this wine comes from stunning hillside vineyards that climb from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The soils are marine-based and the weather is consistently cool thanks to ocean breezes that sweep the property daily. Originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock, and clone, these vineyards are farmed with painstaking care and attention to detail.

VINTAGE 2023 was a cooler growing season overall, with moderate rainfall and later-than-average bud break. With proper canopy management, our reds developed high concentrations of color and tannin, and the whites retained austere fruit expression and natural, bright acidity. 2023 will be regarded as a vintage of great quality and of one of the most exceptional vintages in recent years.

WINEMAKING We harvest the grapes based on the ripeness of the tannins. For Pinot Noir this usually occurs around 23.5 - 25 brix. The clusters were gently destemmed with no crushing, then the must was cold soaked in open-top fermenters for 4 days. Each tank was manually punched down throughout fermentation. Upon completion of primary fermentation, the free run and pressed wine were transferred to tanks for settling. Finally, the individual lots were racked to barrels and aged for 18 months in 40% new French oak prior to blending and bottling.

TASTING Aromas of rich, juicy Marionberry with accents of black cherry entice the senses. On the palate, this wine has a juiciness reminiscent of ripe blackberries, accents of red cherry, pomegranate fruit, and notes of spiced herb. It is balanced and smooth on the finish with notes of toasted French oak.

> APPELLATION Sta. Rita Hills | VINEYARD T Anchor Ranch COMPOSITION 100% Pinot Noir COOPERAGE 18 months in French oak, 40% new ALCOHOL 14.5% | TA 6.0 g/L | p H 3.57

