

## 2023 PINOT NOIR

BARREL SELECT | STA. RITA HILLS

Located in the Santa Rita Hills AVA of Santa Barbara County, the stunning hillsides of the Rancho Santa Rosa Vineyard features 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 farmed with the painstaking care and attention usually associated with much smaller properties. In fact, this vineyard was originally conceived as a series of individual micro-vineyards delineated by soil, exposure, elevation, grade, rootstock and clone.

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 laterthan-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 one of the most exceptional vintages in recent years.

WINEMAKING We harvest our grapes based on the ripeness of the tannins. The fruit was hand-picked and hand-sorted in the vineyard in the cool morning hours to preserve the aromatics. The clusters were then gently de-stemmed with no crushing. The must was cold-soaked in open-top fermenters for four days. Each tank was manually punched down daily throughout maceration. Upon completion of primary fermentation and maceration, the free-run wine was transferred to tank for settling. Next, the individual lots were racked and aged for 18 months in 52% new French oak prior to bottling.

TASTING This Pinot Noir opens with aromas of spiced black cherry cola, dark plum, and black pepper. On the palate, it has great concentration, bold tannin, and prominent oak tones of toasted vanilla, marzipan, and bourbon. This bold Pinot Noir will continue to evolve with proper cellaring and should be decanted in its youth. Enjoy served alongside a peppered steak for the ultimate indulgent feast.

APPELL ATION Sta. Rita Hills | VINEYARD Rancho Santa Rosa COMPOSITION 100% Pinot Noir COOPER AGE 18 months in French oak, 52% new ALCOHOL 14.5% | TA 6.30 g/L | pH 3.48

