2021 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 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 The 2021 vintage was notably cooler during the growing season with a late start to harvest. Early bud break and mild spring weather continued into a cool summer. The quality of the grapes were good and acid levels remained balanced due to the moderate weather. Tremendous team effort and coordination truly made this season possible. Our first pick was September 8th and harvest was completed on October 23rd.

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 16 months in 30% new French oak prior to blending and bottling.

TASTING This wine has delicate aromas of fresh raspberry and candied red cherry with hits of black pepper. On the palate it is light bodied, with fruit notes of rhubarb, cranberry, and red cherry cola, with nuance of toasted French oak framed by balanced acidity and tannin. This wine is graceful and intricate, making it ideal to pair with a variety of cuisine.

> APPELLATION Sta. Rita Hills | VINEYARD JA Ranch COMPOSITION 100% Pinot Noir COOPERAGE 16 months in French oak, 30% new ALCOHOL 14.3% | TA 6.08 g/L | pH 3.60

