

LAFOND

PINOT NOIR 2016

Sta. Rita Hills

VINEYARDS:

80% Lafond Vineyard Pinot Noir
20% Burning Creek Ranch Pinot Noir
AVA: Sta. Rita Hills

HARVEST: September 1 - 15, 2016

SUGAR: 23.4 - 25.9 Brix

BOTTLING: August 22 - 24, 2017

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

TOTAL ACID: .68

PH: 3.35 (Dry)

34 130 gallon puncheons, 36 60 gallon barrels
18% new oak

PRODUCTION: 2,734 cases

The Sta. Rita Hills is a small appellation at the western end of the Santa Ynez Valley that has gained national recognition for its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

The Valley runs west to east, opening a gap in the coastal range, allowing the late afternoon ocean fog to roll in where it lingers until early morning. The surrounding hills trap the fog before it is dissipated in the wider Santa Ynez Valley.

The fog cools the vines from the day's summer heat and it is this combination of warm days and cool nights that gives the wine its complexity as well as providing acidity to give it structure.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS: 2016 had a moderate crop with a low vigor canopy because of the continuing draught. The 2016 Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir features extremely high quality fruit from seven different clones and nine different fermenter lots.

TASTING NOTES: The 2016 Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir is a deep ruby color. Delicate aromas of raspberries and violets combine with mild notes of cherry cola. Stewed Bing cherry, truffle and dried lavender complete the palate. This light-bodied red wine has strong tannins, and can easily stand up to smoked meats, game birds, or teriyaki salmon

AWARDS:

Wine Advocate - 90 points
Wine Enthusiast - 93 points
Gold Medal 2019 Tasters Guild International Wine Judging

